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COLLECTOR'S EDITION

AUG. 1976

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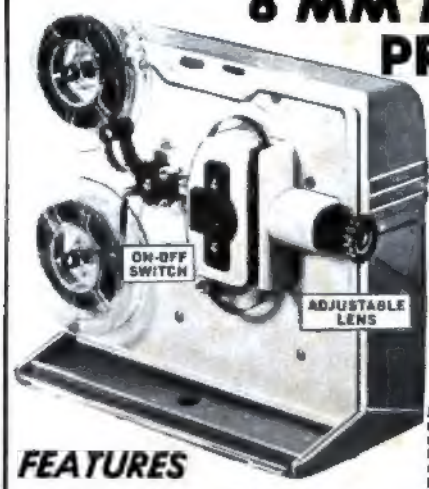

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ADDS 3-D STEREO EFFECT

Makes People Look So Full and Real. You'll Feel You Can Reach Out and Touch Them

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HORROR TALES

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THE EVIL ONE
YOU'VE READ STRANGE STORIES ABOUT DRAGONS AND SCOFFED! BUT DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK THAT DRAGONS, THE SHARP TALONED BEASTS OF THE UNKNOWN MUST HAVE ACTUALLY EXISTED IN ANCIENT TIMES WHEN ARMORED KNIGHTS SAT AT KING ARTHUR'S TABLE... THEN READ ON FOR AN ACCOUNT OF THIS EERIE TALE DESIGNED TO SHOCK YOU OUT OF YOUR SKIN!
MARCHIONNE 73

ON THE GLOOMY, MIST-SHROUDED MOORS NEAR THE TOWN OF CAMELFORD, ENGLAND...

THERE IT IS... *LACHAN CASTLE!* IT'S CERTAINLY ANCIENT AND FORBIDDING ENOUGH TO CONTAIN THE SECRET I'M SEEKING!

MY FATHER THE BARON IS DEAD... WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

MY NAME IS GEORGE BAINES, MISS LACHAN... AND I'D LIKE YOUR PERMISSION TO EXAMINE YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES AND RECORDS! YOU SEE I'M A RESEARCH WRITER WORKING ON AN ANCIENT HISTORY PROJECT! FRANKLY I BELIEVE THAT THIS CASTLE HOLDS MANY SECRETS ABOUT THOSE OLDEN DAYS!

GRRRR!

MY PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT CAMELFORD IS THE LOCATION OF THE ANCIENT TOWN OF CAMELOT! INCIDENTLY THE FAMOUS ENCHANTRESS KNOWN AS VIVIEN, THE LADY OF THE LAKE, IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAD HER CASTLE NEARBY!

WHY THAT'S ODD... MY NAME IS VIVIEN! IN EVERY GENERATION A DAUGHTER HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT NAME!

AFTER DAYS OF EXAMINING THE ANCIENT RECORDS...

I.. I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT DEFEAT! THERE ARE GAPS IN THESE RECORDS, AS IF SOMEONE WANTED TO HIDE A SECRET!

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD! IT'S TIME TO RELAX! COME, LET'S TAKE A WALK, -IT'LL DO YOU GOOD!

THEN MY HUNCH MUST BE *RIGHT!*

THE FAMILY ARCHIVES ARE KEPT IN A LOCKED VAULT... THEY'VE BEEN UNTOUCHED FOR GENERATIONS, BUT I'LL OPEN THE VAULT FOR YOU!

HE'LL BE LEAVING NOW... AND I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO! OH, IF ONLY I HAD THE COURAGE TO MAKE HIM STAY HERE!

STRANGE... I HAVE AN OVERPOWERING IMPULSE TO *KISS* HER!

VIVIEN... *DARLING!*

TELL ME, IS IT AN AMERICAN HABIT FOR A MAN TO KISS A GIRL SO SOON AFTER MEETING HER ?
ONLY IF HE'S FALLEN IN *LOVE* WITH HER! AND THERE'S ANOTHER AMERICAN HABIT! THE CARVING OF THE INITIALS OF SWEETHEARTS ON A TREE!

NO, GEORGE... *DON'T!* THERE'S AN OLD FAMILY SUPERSTITION THAT NO ONE IS SUPPOSE TO CUT IT DOWN OR LAY A BLADE ON IT!
NONSENSE!

SAY, THE BLADE MUST HAVE STRUCK METAL EMBEDDED UNDER THE BARK, I THINK I'LL PRY OFF THE BARK AND SEE WHAT'S THERE!
CLANK!

WHY, THERE'S A METAL PLATE WITH SOME PECULIAR WRITING ON IT!
YES... *CELTIC* WRITING ... LET ME SEE IF I CAN TRANSLATE IT!

LET ME CHECK MY BOOK ON ANCIENT CELTIC!
IT'S AN ODD LANGUAGE! LET'S SEE *MERDDIN NAGAST AGENOR-IDRIS KINA - BALOR ALUKAH -*

SUDDENLY...
I FOUND IT! *MERDDIN* IS THE ANCIENT N NAME FOR *MERLIN*... THE WIZZARD OF *EVIL!*
G... GEORGE ...L... *LOOK!*

FANTASTIC! HE LOOKS LIKE THE OLD PRINTS I'VE SEEN OF MERLIN!

I REMEMBER NOW... THE ANCIENT LEGENDS SAID YOU WERE IMPRISONED IN AN OAK TREE BY VIVIEN THE LADY OF THE LAKE! AND YOU WERE RELEASED WHEN THIS VIVIEN READ OFF THE SPELL!
AN AYE, AND FOR THAT YE SHALL HAVE ANYTHING YOU NAME... ANYTHING!

BUT YOU, VIVIEN ... YE WILL DIE A HORRIBLE DEATH! YOU ARE THE DESCENDANT OF THE DECEITFUL ENCHANTRESS THAT TRICKED ME INTO REVEALING MY MAGIC SPELLS ... BUT NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE FURY OF MY VENGEANCE! ... AND IT WILL BE A BLOOD-FEAST!

YE'LL BE TORN APART, DEVOURED BY THE MOST FIENDISH BEASTS IN CREATION... MY DRAGONS! IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO SUMMON THEM INTO THIS WORLD! WATCH!

MOGH-BUOTH!
YAAAHH-H! THAT THING IS REAL

HERE, MOGH-BUOTH! YE CAN FEED WELL... THERE YOUR PREY!
NO... NO!
GRW
OWR GRRRR!!

WAIT, O MIGHTY MERLIN! LET YOUR REVENGE WAIT... THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS FOR YOU TO ATTEND TO!

I WILL HEED YOU... BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FREEING ME! BUT IF THIS IS A TRICK, YOU TOO SHALL DIE!

BE GONE MOGH-BUOTH! ... NOW TELL ME, WHAT MATTERS DID YOU SPEAK OF?
THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE A SORCERER IN KING ARTHUR'S TIME BUT NOW THERE LIVES A MAGICIAN WITH EVEN GREATER POWERS THAN YOURS, MERLIN!

THIS MAGICIAN DWELLS IN THE LAND OF VOLGA AND THE URALS! AND HE IS PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE WORLD, INCLUDING ENGLAND! ONE OF YOU MUST CONQUER THE OTHER!

YOU SHOULD COMBAT THE RED MAGICIAN NOW WITH ALL THE FORCES AT YOUR COMMAND, MERLIN ... BEFORE HE LEARNS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND TAKE STEPS TO DESTROY YOU!
GEORGE HOW COULD YOU...?
SILENCE! WHAT HE SAYS IS OF INTEREST TO ME!

BEGONE SORCERESS ... REMAIN IN THE DUNGEON OF YOUR CASTLE UNTIL I HAVE DISPOSED OF THE RED MAGICIAN!
OH-HHH!

NOW, I WILL ATTACK THE RED MAGICIAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE GREATEST WIZARD OF EVIL! I WILL SEND THE FORCES OF THE NETHER WORLD AGAINST HIM! RISE UP MOGH-BUOTH ... COME, GUR-DRAOBH... LOTH...
GO... GO TO THE LAND OF THE URALS AND VOLGA ... FALL UPON THE ARMY OF THE RED KNIGHT!

BUT AT AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN EMPLACEMENT OUTSIDE CAMELFORD...
WHA... IT'S A BLOOMIN' INVASION... MAYBE FROM MARS! SHOOT THEM DOWN, WHATEVER THEY ARE!
LOOK... THEY DISAPPEAR WHEN THEY'RE HIT! KEEP FIRING!
BAROOOMM!
MY DRAGONS ...THEY'VE BEEN SLAIN!
KEEP SENDING UP YOUR DRAGONS AND HOPE THAT SOME OF THEM GET THROUGH!
YOU ARE RIGHT! RISE UP, TORLHUKAR... ROGDESHTU...
THAT'LL KEEP HIM BUSY FOR AWHILE ... NOW TO GET TO THE CASTLE AND FREE VIVIEN!
WOOOM!
WOOOMM!
THEY'RE COMIN' UP FASTER THAN WE CAN KNOCK 'EM DOWN COLNEL
A DOZEN SQUADRONS OF FIGHTER PLANES ARE ON THE WAY!
A STRANGE BATTLE ENSUES - ANCIENT DRAGONS AGAINST MODERN AIRCRAFT!
RATATATA!!

AT BRITISH SOUTHWEST DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS IN CORNWALL...
OUR PLANES REPORT THE BEASTS KEEP COMING UP FROM THE VICINITY OF LACHAN CASTLE! WE'LL BOMB THE PLACE IF NECESSARY!
YOU HEARD ME! KEEP ATTACKING! ... THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS!
MEANWHILE, IN THE DUNGEON AT LACHAN CASTLE...
GEORGE... YOU DIDN'T MEAN WHAT YOU SAID TO MERLIN!
OF COURSE NOT, DARLING! BUT WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST... PERHAPS YOU CAN IMPRISON MERLIN IN THE TREE, THE WAY LADY OF THE LAKE DID CENTURIES AGO!
AS SOON AS I KAYO HIM, GRAB THE SORCERER'S STAFF ...AND RECITE THE SPELL BACKWARDS ...BECAUSE THAT'S HOW HE WAS IMPRISONED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I'M EXHAUSTING THE SUPPLY OF DRAGONS... I WILL HAVE TO SUMMON UP THE DREAD BELIAL HIMSELF... EVEN THOUGH HE MAY DESTROY THE ENTIRE WORLD!
BUT BEFORE MERLIN CAN UTTER THE SATANIC CHANT...
CRAK!
I'LL TELL HIM TO THE TREE BEFORE YOU RECITE THE SPELL! WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY BEFORE HE COMES TO!
I'LL MEMORIZE THE SPELL FIRST... BECAUSE HIS BODY WILL CONCEAL IT AGAINST THE TREE!
CALLING BOMBER COMMAND... THE BEASTS HAVE STOP COMING UP ... ARE WE STILL TO DROP OUR BOMBS!
NO... ONLY DROP THEM IF THE MONSTERS SHOW UP! WE'LL SEND TROOPS OUT TO INVESTIGATE!

HE'S BEGINING TO STIR HURRY UP WITH THAT SPELL!
MAXULA ROLAB-ANIK SIRDI-RONEGA TSAGAN NIDDREM!
IT WORKED... HE'S AS POWERLESS AS WHEN YOUR ANCESTER FIRST CAST THE SPELL OVER HIM... AND HE'S GOING TO STAY THAT WAY!
LATER...
... AND THAT'S ALL THERE WAS TO IT, GENERAL! MERLIN WILL NEVER ESCAPE AGAIN. BECAUSE VIVIEN WILL NEVER "READ-OFF" THE MAGIC SPELL AGAIN!
AND THIS IS HIS STAFF, EH? WE'LL KEEP IT GUARDED... NEVER KNOW WHEN IT WILL COME IN HANDY!
MEANWHILE, MISS LACHAN, I WANT TO THANK YOU AND MR BAINES FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN DESTROYING THE CREATURE OF EVIL. NO TELLING WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WORLD, HAD HE ESCAPED!
WELL GENERAL, MISS LACHAN AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED... SO THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL CARRY ON THE LINE OF THE LADY OF THE LAKE! THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE SECRET WILL NEVER GET INTO THE WRONG HANDS!
FINE!
THE END

MACAGNO
MEDICAL STUDENTS BECOME CALLOUSED TO SIGHTS WHICH MIGHT SHOCK OTHERS INTO THEIR GRAVES. BUT NOT EVEN CALLOUSED MEDICAL STUDENTS COULD STAND
SATAN'S DEAD DEMONS

WHEN THEY DIE, THE CITY'S POOR AND NAMELESS OFTEN TRAVEL A SILENT ROAD TO CITY HOSPITAL'S "CORPSE TANK," A DEEP VAT OF COOL FORMALDEHYDE IN WHICH THE UNCLAIMED DEAD ARE PRESERVED. FROM THIS TANK MEDICAL STUDENTS CLAIM "SPECIMENTS TO STUDY.

YAWWWNN! --I'M THROUGH WITH "LOUIE" HERE, MACK HOW ABOUT YOU?
JUST ABOUT. I'LL CALL IT QUITS AS SOON AS I PROBE THIS ARM FOR THE SOCKET-BONE JOINT.

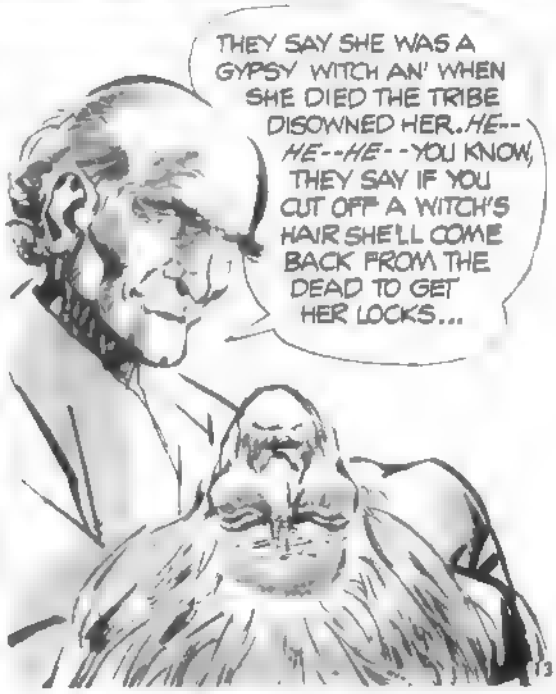
LET'S SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING--
THERE'S A TOUGH PIECE HERE TO CUT, I--HEY! LOOK OUT!

BLAST IT!
HA-HA-HA!! GOOD THING YOU'RE WORKING ON A "STIFF"! A REGULAR PATIENT WOULDN'T GO FOR YOUR TECHNIQUE, HA-HA--

WELL-- LET'S CALL IT A DAY, WE'VE GOT TO GET READY FOR THE PARTY.
OKAY. I'M NOT IN SHAPE FOR ANY MORE DISSECTION TONIGHT. MY EYES ARE ABOUT READY TO GIVE OUT...

WELL, WELL--DIDN'T KNOW YOU GENTLEMEN WERE IN HERE. HE-HE-HE--- GOT ANOTHER BEAUTY HERE--HE-HE-HE---WANTS TO TAKE A SWIM IN OUR TANK, SHE DOES...

SAY, SAM, WHEN YOU HAVE TIME, PUT THESE TWO BODIES BACK IN THE TANK, WILL YOU?
SURELY, SURELY, BOYS, BUT FIRST OL' SAM HAS TA PUT QUEEN SHEBA HERE IN THE TANK. HE-HE-HE--


THEY SAY SHE WAS A GYPSY WITCH AN' WHEN SHE DIED THE TRIBE DISOWNED HER. HE--HE--HE--YOU KNOW, THEY SAY IF YOU CUT OFF A WITCH'S HAIR SHE'LL COME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO GET HER LOCKS...

HAVE A NICE SWIM, WITCHY! HE-HE-HE-- FIRST TIME WE EVER HAD A WITCH IN OUR SWIMMING POOL! HE-HE-HE--

BRRR. WHY DON'T THEY FIRE THAT OLD CUCKOO! HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
FIRE HIM? HA-HA-HA--WHO WOULD TAKE HIS JOB! BESIDES, HE GAVE ME A TERRIFIC IDEA-- FOR THE PARTY TONIGHT--

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CUTTING OFF THE WITCH'S HAIR, BOY! WE'LL USE THESE LOCKS TO MAKE PLACE-CARDS AT THE PARTY! A KNOCK-OUT OF AN IDEA, HUH?

I-I DON'T KNOW, TED, SOMEHOW I-- WELL, I WONDER IF IT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW WHAT SAM SAID...
DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVE THAT DRIVEL OF SAM'S! HA-HA-HA--- LOOK AT THAT OLD HAG! THINK SHE'LL COME AFTER HER HAIR?

AND SO THE DISSECTION ROOM WAS LEFT IN SILENCE, BUT AS THE MOON ROSE...
MY HAIR---GASP!---MY HAAA-I-R-R-R-R---

THE GYPSY WITCH MOVED...AND THEN HER LIPS WRITHED IN A GHASTLY GRIMACE...
AHHH! THEY TOOK MY HAIR-- AND I SHALL HAVE IT BACK IN MY GRAVE--HA-HA-HA-HA-HA--RISE, MY PRETTIES --BY BEELZEBUB AND DARKNESS RISE TO MY BIDDING...

MEANWHILE, AT THE SMALL, APARTMENT IN WHICH MACK AND TED LIVE...
WELL, IT'S BEEN A KNOCKOUT PARTY, GUYS, BUT I'VE GOT TO SCRAM— GOT EXAMS TOMORROW.
I'M TAKING MY PRICELESS PLACE-CARD WITH ME. "WITCH'S HAIR" --HA-HA-HA-
SURE--EVERYBODY TAKE THEIR HUNK OF HAIR WITH 'EM! HA-H-- WATCH OUT FOR THE WITCH!

LISTEN TO ME-E-E-HE-HE---MY PRETTIES! WE SEARCH FOR WITCH'S HAIR--MY OWN! AND YOU WILL SEE IT WITH YOUR EYES OF DEATH FOR IT WILL GLOW FOR YOU WHEREVER IT IS!
KILL--BRING BACK MY HAIR----

AND IN A FAR CORNER OF THE CITY, TED AND MACK WALK THEIR DATES HOME..
HONESTLY, TED, YOU'RE A SCREAM! HA-HA-HA-- IMAGINE CUTTING OFF A WITCH'S HAIR!
YOU KNOW ME, TOOTS! "TERRIBLE TED!"
HA-HA--AS IF THERE WERE SUCH THINGS AS WITCHES!

AND FAR ABOVE THE NIGHT AIR CARRIES WITH IT HIDEOUS PASSENGERS...
ARRRR-
THE GLOW-- THE G-L-O-W-W-W---

AND IN THE ROOM FAR BELOW ONE OF THE PARTY-GOERS PREPARES FOR BED...
¿YAWWWN¿ NOW FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP...HA-HA-HA...THOSE CRAZY BOYS-- WITCH'S HAIR...HAHAHA.... ¿YAWWWWN¿...

AHHHH...
THE HAIR---THE WITCH'S HAIR..

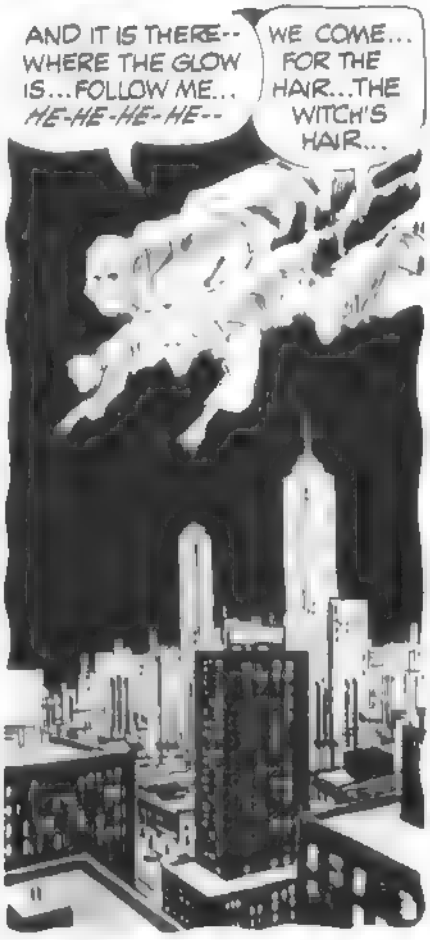
AND THE ROAD TO DREAMLAND PROVES TO BE THE DARK LAND OF DEATH....
DEATH TO THOSE WHO STEAL THE HAIR...
ARRGGH...

AND OTHER PARTY-GOERS MEET A SIMILAR FATE ...
THE HAIR...HER HAIR---I COME FOR IT---
YAAA...

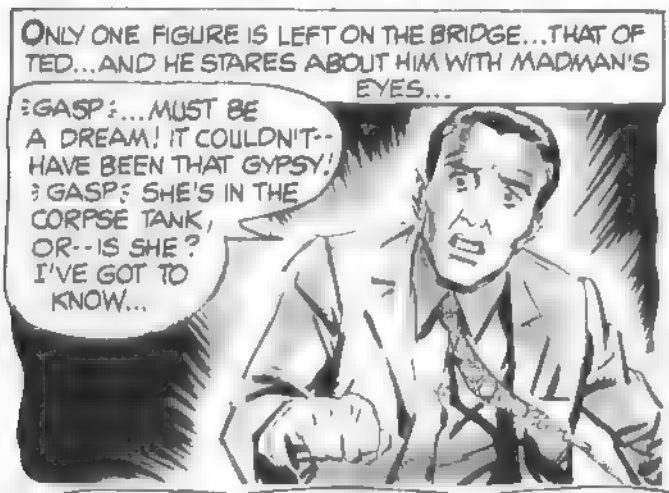
ONE BY ONE THE PARTY-GOERS MEET A HARSH SCREAMING DEATH...
AHHH! THAT FACE--THAT FACE!
HAIR--IN THERE--THE WITCH'S HAIR--

THE HAIR---THE WITCH S HAIR... THERE WILL BE NO REST!
AHHHHH!

A-HA-HA-HA---WE HAVE ALMOST ALL OF IT NOW, MY PRETTIES! ALL--EXCEPT FOR TWO LOCKS...AND I MUST HAVE THAT, TOO--I MUST HAVE IT--


AND IT IS THERE--WHERE THE GLOW IS...FOLLOW ME... HE-HE-HE-HE--
WE COME... FOR THE HAIR...THE WITCH'S HAIR...

WHEW... WHY DO YOU GIRLS LIVE SO FAR AWAY?
HA-HA-HA--WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
AHHHHH.. LOOK--LOOK!
WHAT--IS IT--
TED--TED--IT'S THE WITCH!..
MY HAIR--M-Y---H-A-I-R--
MY HAIR--MY H-A-I-R--I HAVE IT--KILL--K-I-L-L--
YAAAAA
NOOOO


ONLY ONE FIGURE IS LEFT ON THE BRIDGE...THAT OF TED...AND HE STARES ABOUT HIM WITH MADMAN'S EYES...
:GASP:...MUST BE A DREAM! IT COULDN'T--HAVE BEEN THAT GYPSY! :GASP: SHE'S IN THE CORPSE TANK, OR--IS SHE? I'VE GOT TO KNOW...

WITH TERROR BURNING HIS HEELS, TED RACED TO CITY HOSPITAL....AND THE DISSECTION ROOM. THEN...
NO! SHE'S STILL THERE! IT IS A DREAM..I.. :GASP:--THE HAIR! SHE HAS THE HAIR IN HER HAND--OH!...IT CAN'T BE--

AHHHH---MACK! SUE--BETH! THEY'RE HA-HA-HA-HA-IN THE TANK! HA-HA-HA...THE WITCH PUT THEM THERE--HA-HA-HA-HA---THEY'RE DEAD---DEAD---HA-HA-HA-

The End

A CORPSE FOR THE COFFIN

I AM A COFFIN... AN EMPTY, BARREN COFFIN! OH, IT ISN'T THAT I'M NOT A GOOD COFFIN... I AM! MY BODY IS MADE OF THE FINEST MAHOGONY, AND MY HINGES ARE STRONG, SHINY BRASS! I'M EMPTY BECAUSE **NO BODY** WANTS ME... **YET!** I SIT HOPEFULLY EVERY DAY, WAITING FOR **DEATH!!**

This is my Story...

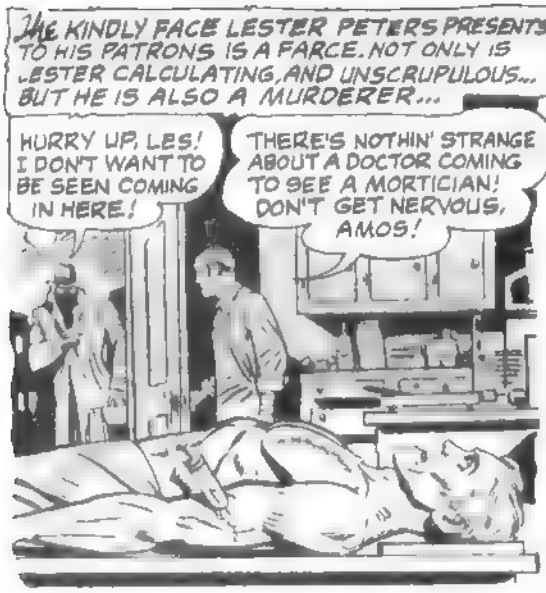
MY HOME IS IN THE BACK OF LESTER PETER'S **MORTUARY!** HERE, ALONG WITH OTHER COFFINS, I WAIT EAGERLY FOR THE DAY FOR A BEREAVED RELATIVE TO SELECT **ME** AS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE BELOVED CORPSE...

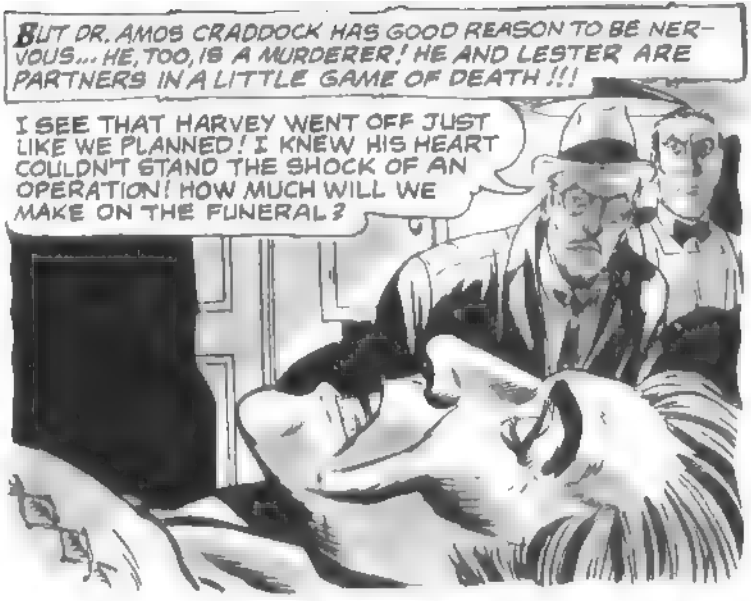
I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT, MRS HARVEY, BUT YOU **MUST** SELECT A COFFIN FOR YOUR BELOVED HUSBAND! THIS IS A FINE ONE! SOLID MAHOGONY... BRASS HARDWARE AND...

NO! (SOB) HENRY LIKED PINE! I WANT A (SOB) PINE COFFIN!

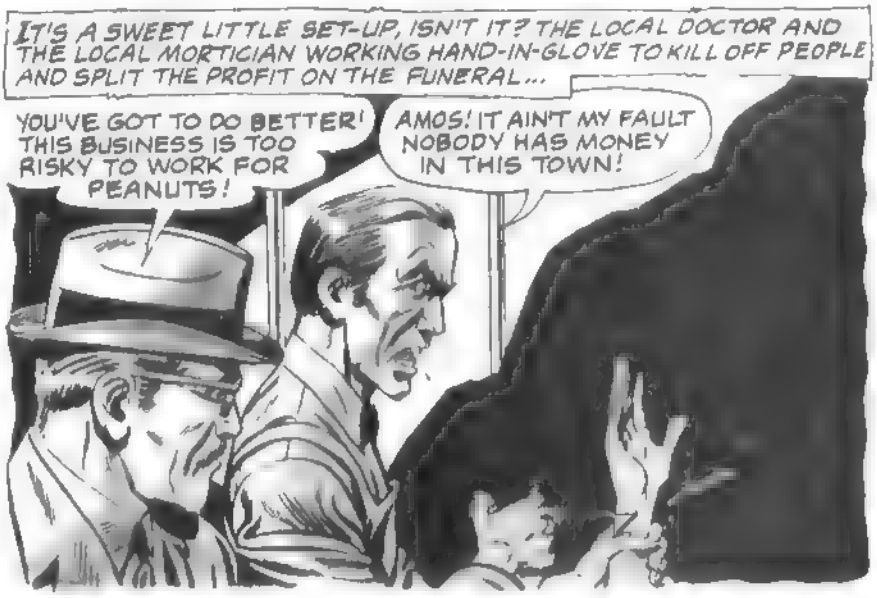
FOR AN INSTANT I THOUGHT MY TIME HAD COME... BUT **NO!** THE WOMAN WANTED **PINE!** SOMETIMES I DESPAIR OF EVER BEING CHOSEN...

I'LL NEVER GET RID OF THIS **DARN** THING! I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO STOCK STOCK SUCH AN EXPENSIVE COFFIN! NOBODY IN THIS **TWO-BIT** TOWN CAN AFFORD IT!


THE KINDLY FACE LESTER PETERS PRESENTS TO HIS PATRONS IS A FARCE. NOT ONLY IS LESTER CALCULATING, AND UNSCRUPULOUS... BUT HE IS ALSO A MURDERER...
HURRY UP, LES! I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN COMING IN HERE!
THERE'S NOTHIN' STRANGE ABOUT A DOCTOR COMING TO SEE A MORTICIAN! DON'T GET NERVOUS, AMOS!


BUT DR. AMOS CRADDOCK HAS GOOD REASON TO BE NERVOUS... HE, TOO, IS A MURDERER! HE AND LESTER ARE PARTNERS IN A LITTLE GAME OF DEATH !!!
I SEE THAT HARVEY WENT OFF JUST LIKE WE PLANNED! I KNEW HIS HEART COULDN'T STAND THE SHOCK OF AN OPERATION! HOW MUCH WILL WE MAKE ON THE FUNERAL?

PRACTICALLY NOTHING! OLD LADY HARVEY BAWLED HER EYES OUT, BUT DIDN'T SPEND! THE WHOLE DEAL AIN'T GONNA BE WORTH MORE'N SEVENTY FIVE BUCKS APIECE!


IT'S A SWEET LITTLE SET-UP, ISN'T IT? THE LOCAL DOCTOR AND THE LOCAL MORTICIAN WORKING HAND-IN-GLOVE TO KILL OFF PEOPLE AND SPLIT THE PROFIT ON THE FUNERAL...
YOU'VE GOT TO DO BETTER! THIS BUSINESS IS TOO RISKY TO WORK FOR PEANUTS!
AMOS! IT AIN'T MY FAULT NOBODY HAS MONEY IN THIS TOWN!

YER WRONG THERE, LES... THERE IS ONE FAMILY THAT HAS MONEY... THE KNOLLS... AND OLD MAN KNOLL IS SICK RIGHT NOW!
YUH MEAN...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN! HE'LL BE DEAD WITHIN A WEEK!
HOT DOG! I GOT JUST THE COFFIN FOR HIM! THIS FUNERAL IS WORTH AT LEAST $1,000!

I KNOW HE MEANS ME! I'M THE COFFIN HE'S TALKING ABOUT! AT LAST I'M TO HAVE A CORPSE OF MY VERY OWN...
HA! I CAN SOAK THE KNOLLS OVER $700 FOR THIS WHITE ELEPHANT ALONE!

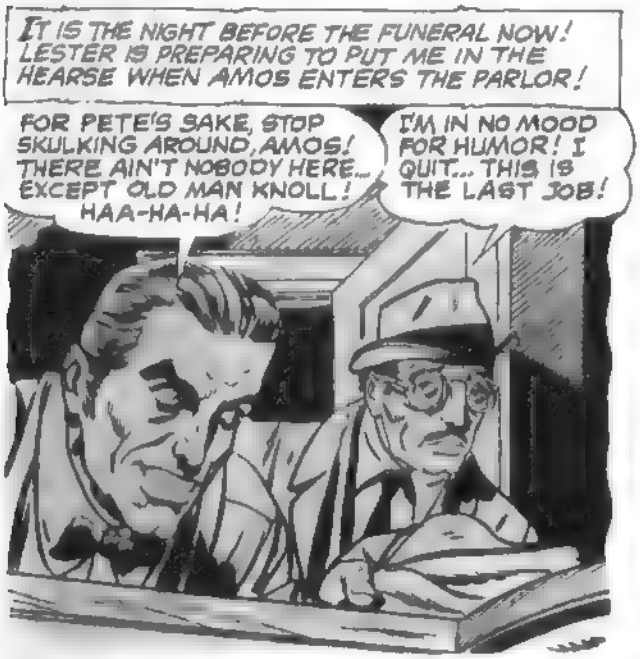
IT IS FIVE DAYS LATER NOW AND MY INSIDES QUIVER WITH JOY AS I HEAR LESTER ON THE PHONE...
OF COURSE, MRS. KNOLL... I'LL BE RIGHT OVER... YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY!

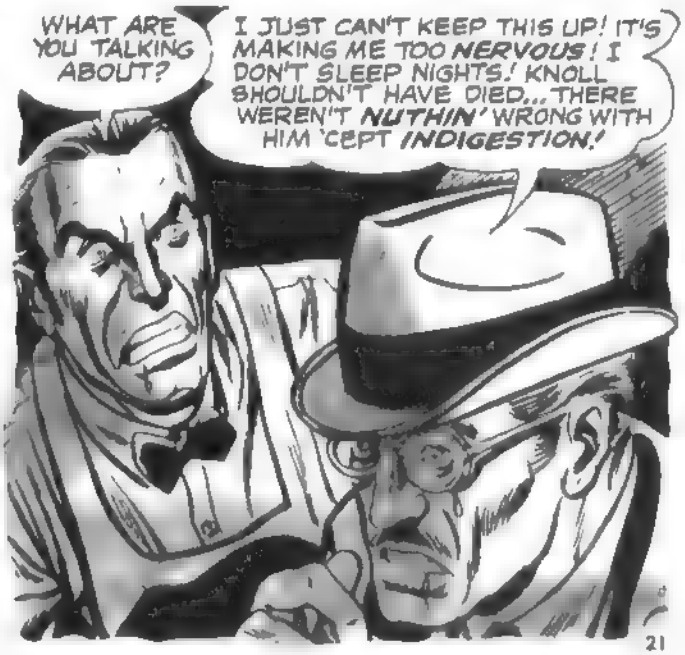
HE DONS HIS BLACK SUIT AND DRIVES OFF! I WAIT BREATHLESSLY.. HE COMES BACK... IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MINUTES UNTIL MINE IS HERE...

HE'S INSIDE NOW, AND ON THE EMBALMING TABLE! WHEN LESTER GETS FINISHED WITH HIM I'LL TAKE HIM TO MY HUNGRY BOSOM, CARESS HIM LOVINGLY...
WHAT A PERFECT SET-UP! WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH OLD MAN KNOLL, EVEN AN AUTOPSY WOULDN'T SHOW DOC'S POISON!

IT'S OVER AND LESTER HAS LAID THE BODY OF ALFRED HAMILTON KNOLL INSIDE OF ME! HIS OLD BONES REST AGAINST MY QUILTED PADDING AND I FEEL LIKE A MOTHER WHO'S HOLDING HER CHILD FOR THE FIRST TIME...
I DON'T CARE THAT HE'S BEEN MURDERED, KILLED IN COLD BLOOD... HE'S MINE AND I LOVE HIM!

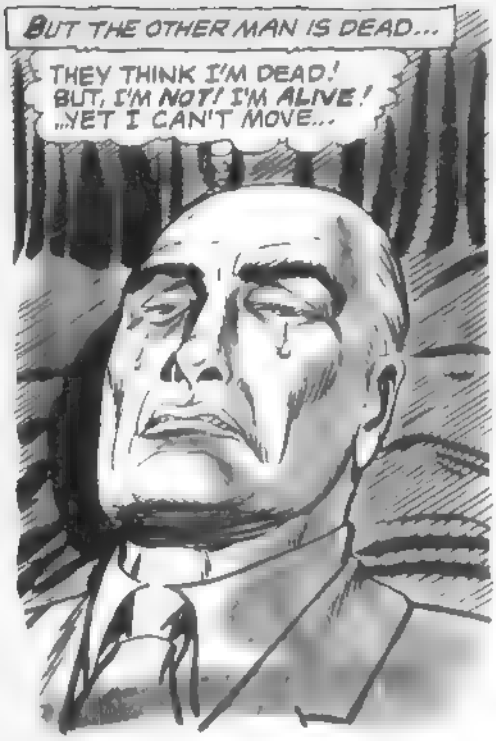
DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS I LIVE IN AN ECSTACY OF DELIGHT AS TEARFUL MOURNERS PASS BEFORE ME...
HE (SOB) WAS A GOOD MAN!
THE WHOLE TOWN WILL MISS HIM!


IT IS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FUNERAL NOW! LESTER IS PREPARING TO PUT ME IN THE HEARSE WHEN AMOS ENTERS THE PARLOR!
FOR PETE'S SAKE, STOP SKULKING AROUND, AMOS! THERE AIN'T NOBODY HERE... EXCEPT OLD MAN KNOLL! HAA-HA-HA!
I'M IN NO MOOD FOR HUMOR! I QUIT... THIS IS THE LAST JOB!

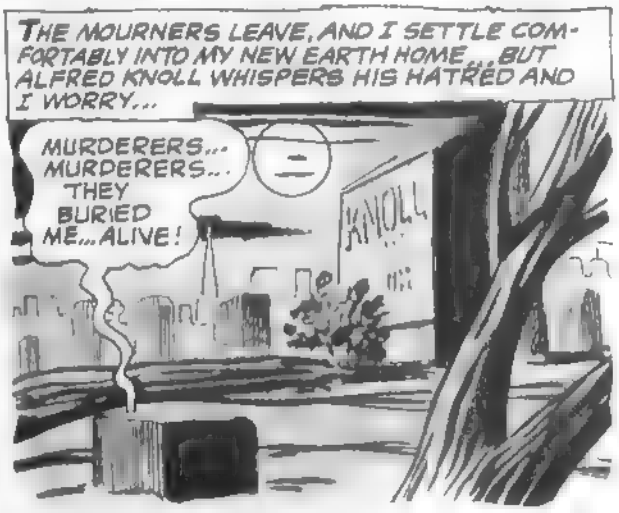

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I JUST CAN'T KEEP THIS UP! IT'S MAKING ME TOO NERVOUS! I DON'T SLEEP NIGHTS! KNOLL SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED... THERE WEREN'T NUTHIN' WRONG WITH HIM 'CEPT INDIGESTION!

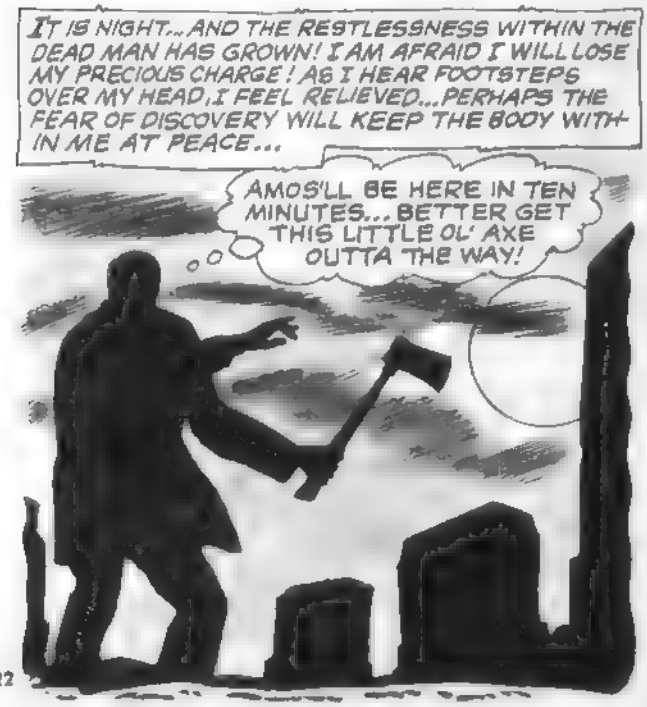
AS AMOS SPEAKS, I FEEL A STIRRING WITHIN MY BOSOM... AN ANGRY, RESTLESS FLUTTERING...
YER YELLOW, AMOS.. JUST YELLOW!
MAYBE I AM... BUT I'M SICK OF BEING A MURDERER! AFTER I COLLECT MY SHARE OF THE KOLL MONEY, WE'RE THROUGH!

AMOS LEAVES...AND INSIDE THE EMBALMING ROOM, TWO MEN MUTTER ANGRILY TO THEMSELVES...ONE OF THE MEN IS ALIVE...
DIRTY COWARD! WITHOUT HIM I'M SUNK! AT LEAST IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO SPLIT ON THE KNOLL JOB IT WOULDN'T BE TOO BAD... SAY... MAYBE...


BUT THE OTHER MAN IS DEAD...
THEY THINK I'M DEAD! BUT, I'M NOT! I'M ALIVE! ...YET I CAN'T MOVE...

I TRY TO COMFORT MY CORPSE... BUT HE WON'T LISTEN... IT IS THE NEXT DAY NOW... THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL...
ASHES TO ASHES... DUST UNTO DUST...


THE MOURNERS LEAVE, AND I SETTLE COMFORTABLY INTO MY NEW EARTH HOME... BUT ALFRED KNOLL WHISPERS HIS HATRED AND I WORRY...
MURDERERS... MURDERERS... THEY BURIED ME...ALIVE!
KNOLL


IT IS NIGHT... AND THE RESTLESSNESS WITHIN THE DEAD MAN HAS GROWN! I AM AFRAID I WILL LOSE MY PRECIOUS CHARGE! AS I HEAR FOOTSTEPS OVER MY HEAD, I FEEL RELIEVED... PERHAPS THE FEAR OF DISCOVERY WILL KEEP THE BODY WITHIN ME AT PEACE...
AMOS'LL BE HERE IN TEN MINUTES... BETTER GET THIS LITTLE OL' AXE OUTTA THE WAY!

I STIFFEN WITH SHOCK AS I RECOGNIZE LESTER'S VOICE...
HA! AND WHAT BETTER PLACE TO HIDE IT THAN BEHIND OLD MAN KNOLL'S GRAVE! DOC KILLED HIM... NOW HE CAN HELP ME KILL DOC!
KNOLL

AT LESTER'S WORDS MY BELOVED CORPSE TURNS AND PUSHES, SCRATCHING AT MY QUILTED SIDES...

SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING SEEMS TERRIFYING TO ME... AND WORSE YET... I CAN HEAR A NEW VOICE... AMOS CRADDOCK...
LESTER? IS THAT YOU, LESTER?
YEAH, DOC... YUH CAN STOP WHISPERIN'! IT'S ME ALL RIGHT!

YUH GOT THE MONEY WITH YUH? I DON'T LIKE BEIN' IN THIS CEMETARY! GIVES ME TH' CREEPS!
IT OUGHTTA GIVE YUH TH' CREEPS, DOC... YOU SENT ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE! HA-HA!

I AIN'T IN NO MOOD FOR YER JOKES, LESTER! GIMME MY SHARE OF THE KNOLL FUNERAL AND LEMME GET OUTTA HERE!
OH, YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT... YOUR SHARE OF THE MONEY! GEE, AMOS, I'M SORRY, BUT I AIN'T GOT IT WITH ME!

AIN'T GOT IT WITH YUH? SEE HERE, LESTER, WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO PULL? I TOLD YOU, I AIN'T IN NO MOOD FOR JOKES!
THIS AIN'T NO JOKE, DOC! NO... NOT A JOKE AT ALL!

YER ACTIN' MIGHTY PECULIAR, LESTER! AND I DON'T LIKE-- L-LESTER! WH--WHAT ON EARTH...
YEAH, DOC, IT'S AN AXE, AIN'T IT? YOU STUPID OLD FOOL! WHY SHOULD I SPLIT THE KNOLL MONEY WITH YOU? YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME NOW!

IN FACT, IF YOU WUZ ALIVE, YOU MIGHT DO ME SOME HARM! YOU TURNED CHICKEN, AMOS... AND I'M GONNA KILL YUH!
N-NO, LESTER, NO! KEEP THE MONEY... B-BUT LEAVE ME ALONE!

FOR AN INSTANT THERE'S SILENCE AND I CAN HEAR ONLY THE SOUND OF RUNNING FOOTSTEPS... BUT THEN THERE'S A HORRIBLE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM...
AAAAGGHHH!

...AND THEN ONCE AGAIN THERE'S SILENCE...
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET THE BODY BURIED BEFORE SOMEBODY SEES ME...

BUT BY NOW, I DON'T CARE... I'VE LOST MY CHARGE... HE'S BROKEN FREE OF ME...

I'M ALONE AGAIN... DESERTED! I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING ABOVE ME AT THIS VERY INSTANT...
WH... HEY, MY THROAT... YER CHOCKIN' ME! STOP! STOP! HELP! HELP!

KNOLL! OLD MAN KNOLL! OH, MY GOD... NO!

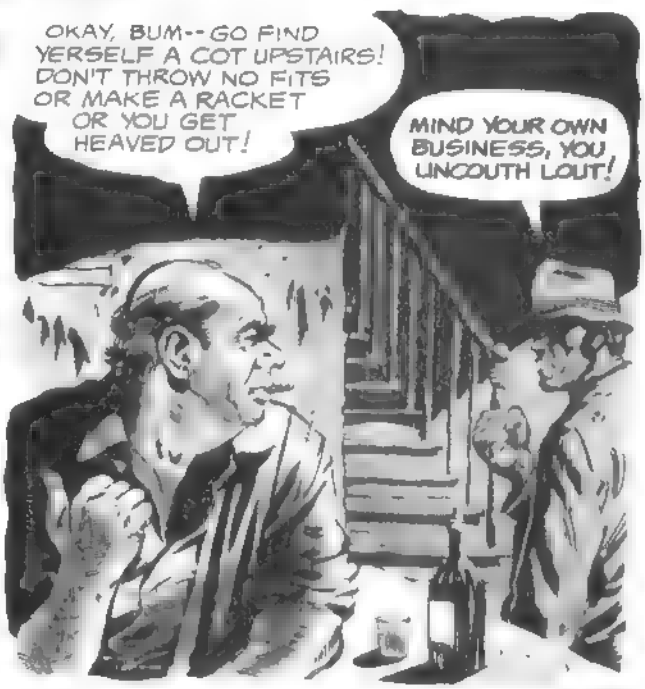
PLEASE! DON'T TAKE ME THERE... NO... NO...

And NOW I CAN SMILE! I'M NOT ALONE... MY EMPTINESS IS ONCE AGAIN FILLED... AND THIS TIME IT IS EVEN BETTER! I'VE GOT TWO CORPSES INSTEAD OF ONE!
DYING! CAN'T BREATHE... GASP! HELP! NEED AIR... AIR...
THE END

THE ZOMBIE-MAKER

THE NAMELESS HORROR STEPPED OUT OF THE DARKNESS TO STEAL THE SOUL OF ARTHUR DRAKE, SKID ROW DERELIC! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO ESCAPE THE HORROR VISITED UPON HIM WHEN HE WALKED HAND IN HAND WITH

DEATH!



YES, BETTER THAN THE OTHER STIFFS ON SKID ROW! HAW, HAW! FORGET IT, PAL... YER JUST ANOTHER BUM!
CONTEMPTIBLE OAF!

ARTHUR DRAKE RECOILS AT THE DEGRADATION BEFORE HIM!
AFTER A BRILLIANT LAW CAREER.. NO WILL TO FIGHT ON.. RUINED. RUINED..

AND SUDDENLY...
DRAKE! I SHALL RESCUE YOU FROM THE DEPTH YOU HAVE FALLEN TO!
WHAT IN ... WHO ARE YOU?

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU FROM THOSE WHO SEEK TO DESTROY YOU! OBEY MY COMMANDS AND YOU SHALL LIVE THE FULL LIFE!
Y-YOUR COMMANDS...
H-HUH? W-WHAT'S GOIN' ON...?

WITHIN MY MIND ARE THE FORBIDDEN SECRETS OF CIVILIZATION... AND IN MY FINGERS ARE POWER AND DEATH! COME... WE HAVE MUCH TO ACCOMPLISH!

B-BUT YOU JUST KILLED A MAN BACK THERE!
IT WAS NOT A MAN I STRANGLED --IT WAS A DERELICT OF DISPAIR · THAT IS THE FATE I AM SAVING YOU FROM!

THE GAUNT FIGURE LEAD ARTHUR DRAKE FINALLY...
ENTER AND WAIT MY BIDDING, DRAKE! YOU MAY CALL ME... VENGEANCE!
Y-YES, VENGEANCE!

INSIDE THE BATTERED BUILDING THE RUINED ATTORNEY STANDS SPELLBOUND
GREAT GOSH... IT'S A PALACE.. HERE IN SKID ROW! A-AND THOSE MEN... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?
DRAKE STANDS TRANSFIXED IN THE OMINOUS CHAMBER. THEN.
THIS WAY MR. DRAKE!
Y-YES!
SHOWER, SHAVE AND PUT ON YOUR FRESH ATTIRE! THE MASTER WILL SEE YOU PRESENTLY!
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS? W-WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE MASTER'S ASSISTANCE LEEDS! ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED IN DUE TIME!
GREAT SCOTT! HE SEEMS TO BE OPERATING SOME SORT OF CULT.. IT'S AS IF THEY WERE HYPNOTIZED.
PLATE GLASS! I-I'M CAGED IN LIKE AN ANIMAL!
BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE! ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN SKID ROW!

SUDDENLY A GROTESQUE CHANGE COMES OVER DRAKE! HIS EYES SPARKLE WITH A SLOWERING EVIL...

AND LATER...
I . HAVE DONE ..YOUR BIDDING MASTER . I'M COM.NG HOME!

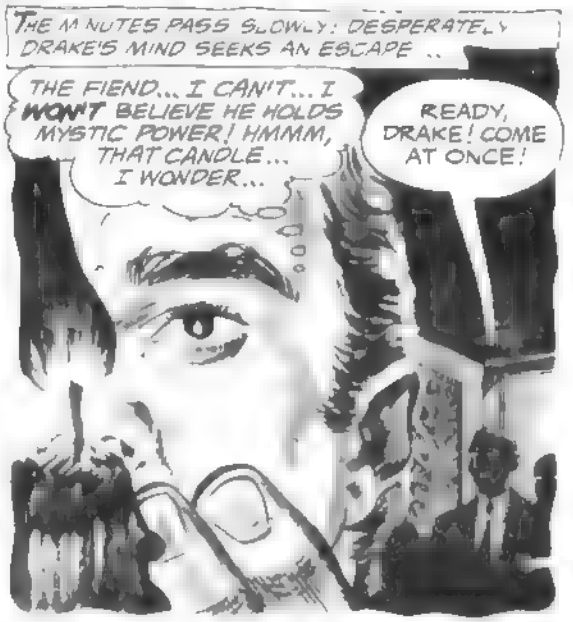
AND THEN...
OH-H-H .. IT'S ALL LIKE A HIDEOUS NIGHT MARE!
DO NOT FRET, DRAKE, YOU HAVE DONE WELL! AND NOT EVEN AWARE THAT YOU ARE MY EMISSARY OF EVIL! LEAD HIM TO HIS CHAMBER!

WITHIN THE LOCKED ROOM DRAKE'S SENSES CLEAR!
GREAT GLORY, H-HE'S PUT THEM UNDER A SPELL! JUST LIKE HE DID TO ME TONIGHT--BUT THEY'RE PERMANENTLY THAT WAY... AND I'LL BE THE SAME SOON!

DRAKE SEEKS FOR A WAY TO ESCAPE! FINALLY..
T-THOSE THREE GHOULS GUARD ME EACH MOMENT I'M NEAR HIM! H-HOW CAN I ESCAPE...
LEEDS!
THE MASTER WILL SEE YOU TO GIVE YOU A SECOND ORDER SHORTLY!

LEEDS YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST! HE HASN'T GOT YOUR MIND YET. HELP ME ESCAPE THIS FIENDISH HOLE!
YOU FOOL! THE MASTER IS ALL POWERFUL! HE WILLS YOUR MIND TO DO AS HE PLEASES!

BUT YOU HAVEN'T THAT BLANK, SOULLESS LOOK! YOU RESISTED IT! HOW CAN I KEEP FROM BEING HIS SLAVE?
BE WISE AND DO NOT RESIST HIM-- REMEMBER, HE IS ALL POWERFUL! BE READY IN TEN MINUTES!


THE MINUTES PASS SLOWLY: DESPERATELY DRAKE'S MIND SEEKS AN ESCAPE ..
THE FIEND... I CAN'T... I WON'T BELIEVE HE HOLDS MYSTIC POWER! HMMM, THAT CANDLE... I WONDER...
READY, DRAKE! COME AT ONCE!

ONCE AGAIN DRAKE STANDS HELPLESSLY BEFORE HIS "MASTER" AND...
DRAKE! YOU WILL GO TO THE OFFICE OF YOUR FRIEND, TOM WEEKS, THE BANKER! FROM HIS PRIVATE OFFICE YOU WILL DISCONNECT THE BANK'S ALARM SYSTEM...
I UNDERSTAND, MASTER!
YOU ARE MAKING A BRILLIANT STUDENT, DRAKE! I WAS WISE TO CHOOSE YOU!
THANK YOU, MASTER...
SUDDENLY, AS THE THREE 'SOULLESS ONES LEAVE...
...AND NOW IT'S TIME I GAVE YOU A FEW LESSONS!
WHA..? THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! Y-YOU'RE DRUGGED! YOU'RE IN A HYPNOTIC STATE!
NOT THIS TIME, I STUFFED MY NOSTRILS WITH WAX PELLETS FROM MY CANDLE-- YOUR DRUGGED FUMES DIDN'T REACHED ME!
Y-YOU KNEW!
NO, I HAD TO TAKE A CHANCE YOU WERE NO SPECTRE FROM THE SUPERNATURAL! GREAT SCOTT... YOU'RE LEEDS IN DISGUISE!
OW-W-W!
ZOC!
START TALKING, LEEDS, OR I'LL SHOW YOU SOME REAL MUMBO JUMBO WITH MY FISTS! WHY PICK ME OUT OF THAT SKID ROW FLOP HOUSE?
I-I KEPT TRACK OF ONCE SUCCESSFUL MEN WHO... VANISHED IN SKID ROW!
LATER...
THOSE MEN ARE ON OUR MISSING PERSON LIST! BUT THEY'LL PULL THROUGH!
STRANGE, I HAD TO COME TO A SKID ROW FLOP HOUSE TO FIND THE COURAGE TO FACE SOCIETY AGAIN! I'M GOING HOME, OFFICER... HOME FOR KEEPS!
THE END

THE DEMONS NIGHT

THE CREATURES OF COME OUT OF THEIR FOUL HIDING PLACES IN THE FOREST AND HELD SWAY! THERE WAS NO WELCOME FOR ANYONE ABROAD ON THIS...

MOMENTS LATER...
UGH! IT'S HORRIBLE. THE BAT .. I MUST GET AWAY... FIND A PLACE TO STAY..

STEPHAN, HIS FALSE COURAGE GONE, RUNS WILDLY, SEEKING REFUGE... AND AS HE PLUNGES DEEPER INTO THE WOODS...

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST, A BAND OF EVIL SISTERS--THE WITCHES--ARE HOLDING A CONCLAVE...
SISTERS! IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON! WITNESS, CREATURES OF OUTER DARKNESS--WE CHOOSE A QUEEN!
AY!

COME, WE TAKE YOUR HAND AND LEAD YOU TO THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS
AYE! WE'LL MAKE OUR PLANS FOR WE MUST PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR MASTER... THE EVIL ONE...

NEARBY IS THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS, A ROTTING PLACE WHERE THE WITCHES HAVE THEIR ABODE...
THIS IS OUR TREASURE TAINTED BY EVIL!
AY, BLOOD MONEY AND JEWELS! WITH THIS TREASURE, YE MUST BUY A MORTAL SOUL FOR OUR MASTER!
IT IS THE LAW OF OUTER DARKNESS. ONLY BY GIVING THE MASTER A MORTAL SOUL CAN WE SURVIVE!

FEAR NOT SISTERS! THERE ARE FEW WHO CAN RESIST GREED. NOW DEPART AND LEAVE ME TO MY WORK!

LATER...
AT LAST A HOUSE.
HA! A VICTIM! I'LL HURRY DOWN AND MAKE HIM WELCOME!

I SAW YOU COMING UP THE PATH, STRANGER! WELCOME. THERE'S A ROARING FIRE AND HOT FOOD INSIDE.
THANK YOU

EXCUSE ME, MY FRIEND. I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO AND BEING ALONE THERE'S NO ONE TO SHARE THE BURDEN!
I'LL GLADLY HELP! IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THIS FOOD!

THERE'S A CHEST TO BE MOVED. I'LL BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP. IT IS RATHER HEAVY!
JUST SHOW ME WHERE IT IS.

AT SIGHT OF THE TREASURE A CRAFTY EXPRESSION CROSSES HIS FACE... THE TEMPTATION IS TOO GREAT...
THIS IS MY CHANCE! I CAN'T USE THE JEWELS... BUT THE MONEY... IT'LL BE EASY!

NOW, LET'S SEE... I'LL TAKE A FEW OF THESE BAUBLES AND PUT THEM IN ANOTHER TRUNK DOWNSTAIRS. THEN, WE'LL MOVE THIS ONE UPSTAIRS!

THE MATCH COMES IN... STEPHAN STRIKES HER DOWN.

A MOMENT LATER
HER BLOOD HAS SOILED THE MONEY! BUT WHY BE SQUEAMISH-- MONEY IS MONEY!

BUT AS HIS HAND TOUCHES THE MONEY, THREE HIDEOUS WITCHES APPEAR...
HE HAS TAKEN THE BLOOD MONEY! THE BARGAIN IS MADE! HIS SOUL IS FORFEIT
WH-WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

SILENCE! WE WILL AWAKEN OUR SISTER!
DEATH FOR US COMES ONLY BY FLAMES SEE... SHE STIRS SHE AWAKENS!

WITCHES! I FORGOT THAT THIS IS THE FEARFUL NIGHT! THERE'S YOUR MONEY! LET ME GO!

I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK... ANYTHING! BUT DON'T DOOM ME TO ETERNITY!
WAIT! HE MAY BE OF SERVICE TO US! HE CAN BUY BACK HIS SOUL!

I'VE NO MONEY. HOW CAN I BUY ANYTHING?
YOU MUST TAKE A MORTAL'S LIFE. THERE IS A MAN WE HATE AND FEAR FOR HE HAS BANDED THE VALLEY PEOPLE AGAINST US! WE'LL POINT HIM OUT AND YOU MUST SLAY HIM!

AY, THAT IS THE LAW! BLOOD FOR BLOOD. A SOUL FOR A SOUL.

WELL...
YES! YES! I'LL DO IT

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO DESTROY KONRAD MARKOV! GIVE HIM YOUR KNIFE SISTER!
HE IS WISE IN THE WAYS OF WITCH-CRAFT! HE IS A DANGEROUS ENEMY!

COME... WE'LL POINT THE MAN OUT! TAKE THE KNIFE!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!

AND AT THE HOME OF KONRAD MARKOV.
HAVE NO FEAR MY FRIENDS! WE'LL SOON RUN THE WITCHES INTO THE GROUND
GOOD WE'LL LEAVE IN A GROUP, CARRYING THE HOLY ROOD, TO DRIVE THEM AWAY ON THIS FEARFUL NIGHT.

LATER..
THE DOGS ARE RESTLESS, I'LL LET THEM ROAM THE GROUNDS.

THAT'S THE MAN! WE'LL LURE THE DOGS AWAY! STRIKE HIM DOWN AND FLEE!
ALL RIGHT.

MOMENTS LATER...
WHO ARE YOU?
DEATH!
... YOU'RE STEPHAN! YAAAAH!
HE... HE CALLED ME BY NAME! UNCLE! UNCLE KONRAD!
TAKE THE SPELL OFF THE DOGS! LET THEM GO AFTER HIM!
YOU WANT HIM CAPTURED, DON'T YOU?
YOU DON'T THINK I'D LET HIM GET AWAY DO YOU?
LATER...
IT'S A GOOD THING WE WEREN'T FAR AWAY AND HEARD YOUR CRIES! THOSE DOGS WOULD'VE TORN YOU TO PIECES.
WHY IS HE PROWLING AROUND KONRAD'S HOUSE? I'LL TAKE A LOOK!
HOLD HIM! BRING HIM TO THE POLICE STATION! KONRAD HAS BEEN MURDERED.

SOON, IN THE LOCAL PRISON.
YOUR UNCLE LEFT A WILL. YOU WOULD HAVE INHERITED A FORTUNE! WAS THAT YOUR MOTIVE?
...THE WITCHES MADE ME DO IT. BELIEVE ME...THE WITCHES!

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO ENTER A PLEA OF INSANITY? BOY...THIS IS NONSENSE
THE WITCHES! I TOOK THEIR BLOOD MONEY AND FORFEITED MY SOUL.

THE TRIAL IS BRIEF, AND...
HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY I SENTENCE YOU TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL DEAD!

MEANWHILE IN THE DARK FOREST...
IT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON ONCE MORE! I KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND ANOTHER SOUL FOR OUR MASTER...THE SOUL OF THE FRESHLY HANGED MURDERER
LET US BRING HIM HERE.

LATER...
IT IS HE! THE ONE WHO SLEW MARKOV!
AY! I TOLD YOU HE WOULD NOT ESCAPE! CUT HIM DOWN.

SO STEPHAN, WHO MADE A DEAL WITH EVIL, SUFFERED THE FATE OF ALL EVIL DOERS, AND WAS DOOMED FOREVER TO SUFFER THE TORMENTS OF THOSE WHOSE SOULS BELONG TO THE DEMONS!
The End

the BLOODY DEMON

THE FINEST STONE-MASONS HEWED THE STRONGEST ROCK TO MAKE THE HOUSE AN IMPREGNIBLE FORTRESS FOR ANDREW CRAVIN AND HIS BRIDE! BUT NOT ALL THE ROCK ON EARTH COULD HOLD BACK THE VENGEFUL RAGE OF THE MURDERED DAVE BURK--WHOSE LAST BREATH LAID THE CURSE OF DOOM ON THIS HOUSE AND THOSE WITHIN IT!

HA HA HA HA HA

FOR CENTURIES MEN HAVE SEARCHED THE MOUNTAINS FOR A CACHE OF MONTEZUMA'S ANCIENT TREASURE! BUT IT REMAINED FOR ANDREW CRAVEN AND HIS FRIEND, DAVE BURK, TO ACTUALLY STUMBLE ON THE FABULOUS HORDE!

THAT'S THE LAST LOAD, ANDREW! WE'VE CLEANED IT OUT!

ALL *OURS*, YOU MEAN! SEND THE BUCKET DOWN SO I CAN COME UP!

NO, DAVE! I MEAN ALL *MINE*! *YOU'RE* NOT COMING UP... *EVER!*

MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD AND JEWELS, DAVE! AND IT'S ALL *MINE!*

ANDREW, YOU'RE MAD! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE TO DIE!
WRONG, DAVE! NOBODY KNOWS WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER...NOBODY BUT ELSA!

YOU RAT! LEAVE MY FIANCEE'S NAME OUT OF THIS!

SHE'S REALISIC ABOUT MONEY, DAVE! I AM RICH! WE'LL BUILD A HOUSE UP HERE!
ANDREW! DON'T KILL ME! YOU CAN HAVE THE TREASURE!

YOU FIEND! I CURSE YOU! WITH MY DYING BREATH I CURSE YOUR HOUSE! IT WILL DESTROY YOU AND HER AS YOU ARE DESTROYING M....

AN HOUR LATER...
THEY'LL NEVER FIND HIS BODY NOW! NOBODY WILL EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A SHAFT HERE!

THAT DOES IT! HE'LL NEVER GET OUT TO MENACE MY LIFE! I'LL GO NOW, BEFORE THE STORM BREAKS!

BUT THE STORM BREAKS WITH FRIGHTENING VIOLENCE!
THAT LAUGHTER!... WILD... EVIL...MENACING! IT...IT MUST BE THE WIND AMONG THE ROCKS!

GOT TO GET PAST THIS BAD SECTION BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS.

SUDDENLY...
CRUMBLE
IT MISSED ME! MISSED BY INCHES!
EEAAHH

MY---MY NERVES ARE GETTING ME! I---I HAD A FEELING HE WAS FREE AND WAITING TO DESTROY ME! BUT I'M SAFE!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
HA HA HA HA HA

...WITH THE DAWN....
THANK HEAVEN, I MADE IT! I'M SAFE....AND SO IS THE TREASURE! ELSA! ELSA! LET ME IN! IT'S ANDREW!

ELSA, DEAREST! I DID IT! HE...HE'S GONE FOREVER! BUT MY NERVES ARE A WRECK! HOLD ME...COMFORT ME...!
DON'T BE MAWKISH! LET ME SEE THE TREASURE! THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!

IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH, ELSA...BUT WE...WE'LL BUILD OUR HOUSE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
DON'T BE SILLY, ANDREW! YOU'RE TAKING ME UP THERE TOMORROW! I MUST BE SURE YOU HAVEN'T LEFT ANYTHING TO SPOIL THIS!

NO, NOT BACK THERE! HE'S DEAD...BUT HE'S WAITING FOR VENGEANCE!
WOULD YOU RATHER I TOLD THE POLICE DAVE WAS WITH YOU!

NO! I'LL...I'LL TAKE YOU TOMORROW, ELSA! I PROMISE!
NOW RUN ALONG AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO CASH THIS IN!

LATER THAT DAY, ALONE IN HIS ROOM....
OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE? SHE'LL BETRAY ME AND HAVE BOTH SHARES.
DAVE, DAVE...OH WHY DID I DO IT! NOW I'M IN A DEADLY TRAP THAT WILL KILL ME WHICHEVER WAY I TURN!

THAT LAUGHTER! HE'S ENJOYING MY ANGUISH! HE KNOWS THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR ME NOW!
HAAAAAAAHA

BUT THE NEXT DAY THE SUN SHONE AND THE DARK TERRORS OF NIGHT AND STORM NO LONGER HOVERED OVER ANDREW CRAVEN!

WHY, THIS IS A LOVELY SPOT, ANDREW! I'LL HAVE NO MORE NONSENSE! I WANT A HOUSE RIGHT HERE...

YOU SHALL HAVE IT, DEAREST! I WAS A SILLY FOOL YESTERDAY, BUT IT WAS JUST NERVES!

BUT SUDDENLY....

ELSA...THAT WILD LAUGHTER! IT'S ***HIS*** VOICE!

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT A COWARD'S TEETH CHATTERING! THIS IS FOR YOUR GHOST, DAVE BURK!

EEAAHA

AHA

AND SO ANDREW CRAVEN, NOW WEALTHY BROUGHT A CREW OF STONE-MASONS AND BUILDERS TO THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN SLOPE!

YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT--- A HOUSE OF MOUNTAIN STONE CUT AND FITTED LIKE A FORTRESS!

YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT, MR. CRAVEN! WE'LL BUILD IT LIKE YOU SAY!

WHEN WE LIFT THIS SOD, WE'LL FIND PLENTY OF ROCK FOR TRIMMING AND FITTING!

NO! I FORBID YOU TO MOVE THIS SOD! BUILD THE HOUSE RIGHT ON TOP OF IT!

I COULDN'T HAVE HIM DIG UNDER THE SOD! HE'D FIND THE SHAFT. AND THEN THE BODY!

YOU ARE A POOR WEAK JELLYFISH, AREN'T YOU, ANDREW?

THAT AWFUL LAUGHTER AGAIN! BUT...BUT YOU DON'T HEAR IT... DO YOU? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE ***HAUNTED!***

STOP BABBLING NONSENSE AND TAKE ME HOME!

AS THE HOUSE TOOK SHAPE, ANDREW CRAVEN GREW BOLDER AS THE LAUGHTER WAS HEARD NO MORE!

AND HALF AN HOUR LATER...

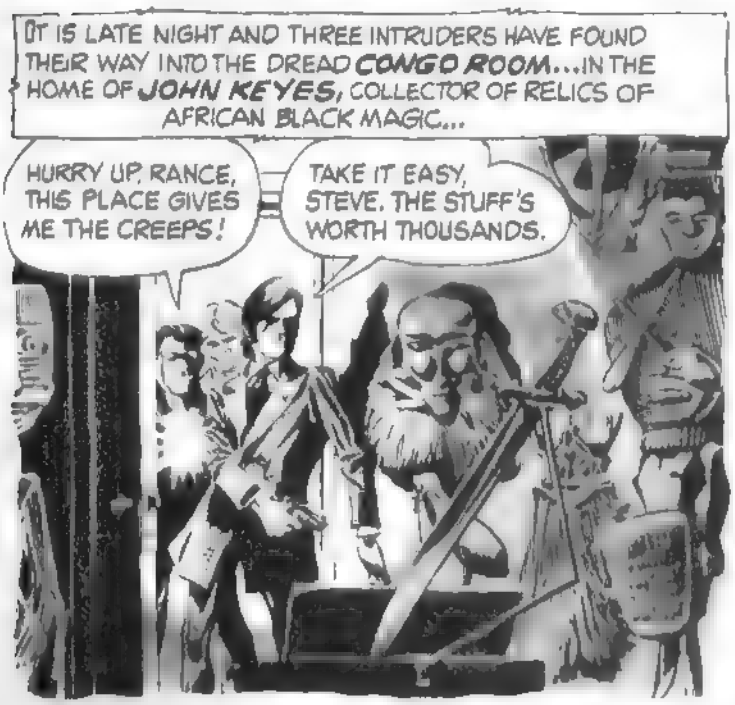
THERE'S THE LADY'S SIGNAL! THAT MEANS THEY'RE SAFE INSIDE AND READY FOR THE BLAST!
HA HA HA HA HA
EEAAA! WE'RE SLIDING.
WHA..? THE GROUND IS SLIDING. THE WHOLE AREA IS SLIDING OVER THE CLIFF!

BLAM

WHO CAN SAY THIS IS SUPERNATURAL. THE RESULT OF A CURSE? THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME A BLAST HAS LOOSENED WHOLE VAST AREAS OF A MOUNTAIN SLOPE.
ANDREW! HELP ME... H-HELP

THE HOUSE CRASHED ON THE VALLEY FLOOR A THOUSAND FEET BELOW AND THEN CAME THE EVIL ROAR OF LAUGHTER!
THAT LAUGH! DO YOU HEAR IT?
YEAH! IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL THE FIENDS IN HELL CELEBRATING A VICTORY!
HA HA HA HA HA
EEE

THE EVIL IDOL



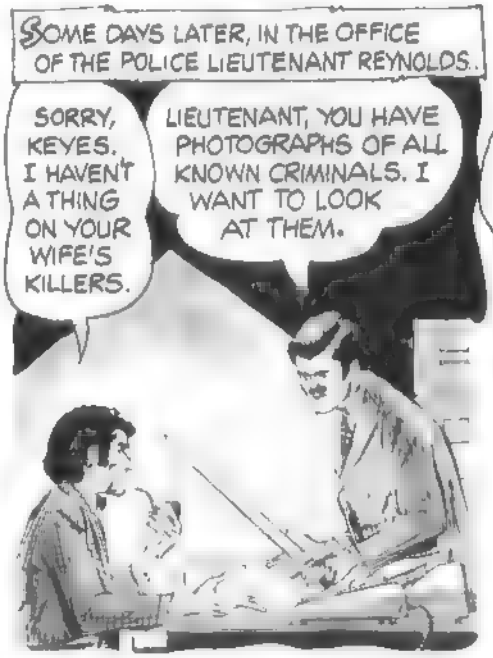
TOO BAD YOU GOT A LOOK AT ME, LADY! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FINGER ME!
J-JOHN... H--MMMM!
KLIK!

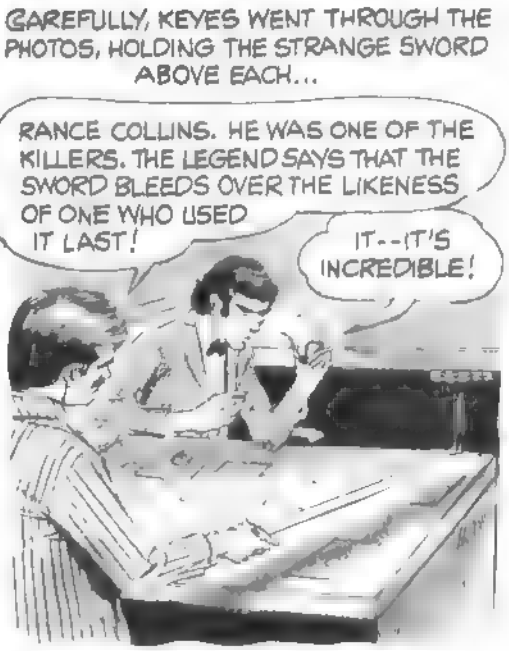
A GUN WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS GADGET OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK.
SACRED SERPENT SWORD OF SARAB!

DON'T WORRY, BOYS! NO ONE'S LAYING THIS JOB AT OUR DOORSTEP. I GOT A PERFECT ALIBI ALL SET UP FOR THE THREE OF US!

EARLY NEXT MORNING, JOHN KEYES MADE A GRISLY DISCOVERY...
MARIA!

REST WELL, MY DEAR, THE FOOLS USED THE SACRED SWORD. YOU WILL BE AVENGED.


SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE LIEUTENANT REYNOLDS.
SORRY, KEYES. I HAVEN'T A THING ON YOUR WIFE'S KILLERS.
LIEUTENANT, YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL KNOWN CRIMINALS. I WANT TO LOOK AT THEM.


CAREFULLY, KEYES WENT THROUGH THE PHOTOS, HOLDING THE STRANGE SWORD ABOVE EACH...
RANCE COLLINS. HE WAS ONE OF THE KILLERS. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT THE SWORD BLEEDS OVER THE LIKENESS OF ONE WHO USED IT LAST!
IT--IT'S INCREDIBLE!

RANCE COLLINS. STEVE MADROGI. MAC WILKINS. THEY ARE MY WIFE'S MURDERERS.
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE POLICE WORK TO THE POLICE...AND NOT RELY ON BLACK MAGIC!... I'VE ALREADY QUESTIONED THEM, AND THEY HAVE PERFECT ALIBIS.

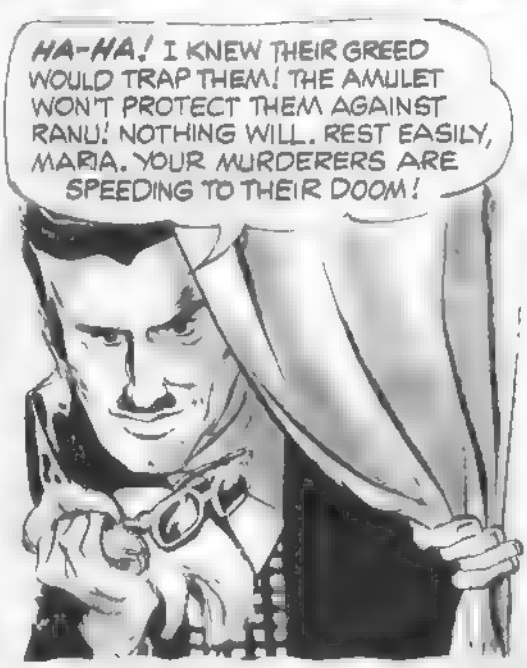
BESIDES, YOU'D HARDLY EXPECT ANY COURT TO TAKE SUCH NONSENSE AS EVIDENCE.
I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...AND I'M SURE MY WIFE'S KILLERS WILL, TOO, BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH THEM, GOOD DAY, LIEUTENANT!

SOME DAYS LATER...
HEY, RANCE...THEY'RE LIKE A TRINKET WE PICKED UP AT THE KEYES' HOUSE. THINK IT'S A TRAP?
MAYBE...BUT WE HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI...AND WE CAN ALWAYS SAY WE FOUND THIS ONE. LET'S GO.
RARE CONGO AMULETS WORTH FORTUNE TO OWNER

PRESENTLY...
YOU THE GENT THAT SAID ONE OF THESE WAS WORTH A FORTUNE!
YES...BUT I HOPE MY LITTLE AD WASN'T MISLEADING. THAT AMULET IS VALUABLE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS PART OF A CHARM THAT GUARDS RANU AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS....A NATIVE CONGO IDOL. HE WHO WEARS IT MAY STEAL RANU WITHOUT HARM!

...AND I AM OFFERING $200,000 IF YOU BRING RANU TO ME. I WILL PAY FOR YOUR PASSAGE, AND ARRANGE TO HAVE SUPPLIES AND INSTRUCTIONS READY WHEN YOU REACH AFRICA.

TWO HUNDRED GRAND FOR A WOODEN STATUE? YOU GOT YOURSELF THREE DELIVERY BOYS, MISTER!


HA-HA! I KNEW THEIR GREED WOULD TRAP THEM! THE AMULET WON'T PROTECT THEM AGAINST RANU! NOTHING WILL. REST EASILY, MARIA. YOUR MURDERERS ARE SPEEDING TO THEIR DOOM!

WEEKS LATER, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND BORDERING THE CONGO...
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS TRIP IS OVER. I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN LIVE IN A MUCK HOLE LIKE THIS!
QUIET, RANCE! I SEE RANU-- THROUGH THIS CLEARING!
ACCORDING TO THE INFO THAT GUY GAVE US, THE WITCH DOCTOR GUARDS RANU WITH HIS LIFE.
RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
GOT HIM! FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS AND SCARE THEM AWAY!
BANG
SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CALL THIS BABY UGLY...BUT TO ME, HE'S THE PRETTIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN...200 GRAND WORTH OF PRETTY!
COME ON, STEVE. THE SOONER I GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, THE BETTER I LIKE IT.
I...I'M SCARED, RANCE. I GOT A LOOK AT ONE OF THOSE NATIVES AND HE WAS GRINNING. WH-WHY SHOULD HE SMILE?
MAYBE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE WITCH DOCTOR AND ARE GLAD WE BUMPED HIM OFF.
RANU COME BACK.

HOURS LATER, AS THE DEEPENING JUNGLE SHADOWS CALL FORTH THE CRAWLING THINGS THAT DEAL IN SUDDEN DEATH...
HEY, FELLAS...WAIT FOR ME! THIS THING'S GETTING HEAVIER AND HEAVIER!
RANCE...COME BACK... IT...IT'S TANGLED IN A TREE!
WELL, UNTANGLE IT, AND COME ON. WE'LL WAIT HERE.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL... AAAAHHH...IT... IT'S.... HELP!
HE...HE GOT CAUGHT IN THEM HANDS! GET HIM DOWN... QUICK!
RANCE! HE... HE'S DEAD... STRANGLED...
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE HAVE TO DO FIRST!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RANCE?
I'M GONNA ROAST THAT LITTLE WOODEN DEVIL TO ASHES! MAYBE I'M CRAZY BURNING TWO HUNDRED GRAND WORTH OF IDOL. BUT I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT...LET'S GET MOVING NOW... FAST!

A LITTLE LATER...
RANCE...DO YOU HEAR IT? SOMETHING CRASHING BEHIND US. DO YOU THINK IT'S...
IT...IT'S AN ANIMAL! IT...IT'S GOTTA BE!

RANCE! I...I CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER! I'M SCARED!

RANCE...HELP ME... HELP ME!!

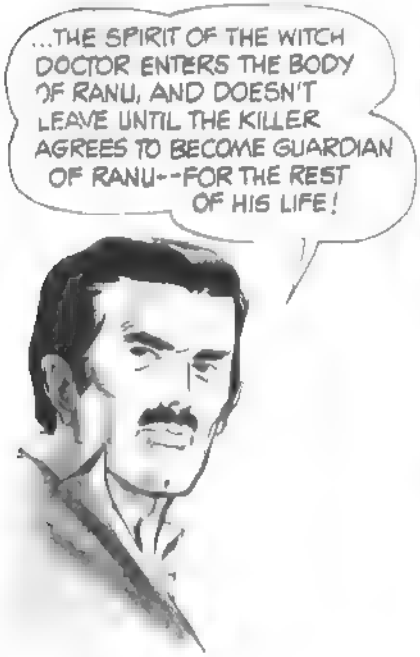
I...I.... ARRRGHH!

NO...NO...NO... DON'T KILL ME LIKE YOU DID THE OTHERS, ANYTHING...ONLY NOT THAT.

LEAD, RANU. I UNDERSTAND. I FOLLOW. WHEREEVER YOU GO, I WILL FOLLOW.

SOME WEEKS LATER, IN THE HOME OF JOHN KEYES...
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT STEVE MADROGI AND MAC WILKINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE JUNGLE... STRANGLED, MR. KEYES. YOU MADE A THREAT AWHILE BACK...
SO I DID. THE WAYS OF THE JUNGLE ARE STRANGE, LIEUTENANT...

NATURALLY. I CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH A THING, BUT I'M CURIOUS. THE REPORTS MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AN IDOL NAMED RANU. BUT THE FATE OF RANCE IS UNKNOWN. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO HIM?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT THE NATIVES BELIEVE THAT WHEN SOMEONE KILLS THE WITCH DOCTOR WHO GUARDS RANU...


...THE SPIRIT OF THE WITCH DOCTOR ENTERS THE BODY OF RANU, AND DOESN'T LEAVE UNTIL THE KILLER AGREES TO BECOME GUARDIAN OF RANU--FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

RANU...BWAMAY... ATTONAH...MY LIFE IS YOUR LIFE, RANU.
THE END!

IF HENRY MASON THOUGHT THAT THE PAYMISTRESS WAS BEAUTIFUL, HE HADN'T MET...
THE DEVIL'S ZOMBIE
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
THERE'S AN EERINESS HANGING IN THE AIR THAT I DON'T LIKE! SOMETHING'S WRONG! I CAN FEEL IT!

GOT TO GET UP ENOUGH SPEED AND GET OUT OF THIS SWAMP! IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN CRAZY!

HEAVENS! THERE'S A GIRL... SHE'S IN MY WAY...
...I CAN'T STOP!

NORRORS! I'VE HIT HER! GOT TO STOP...
SCREE
EECH!

I'VE KILLED HER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE... BUT...

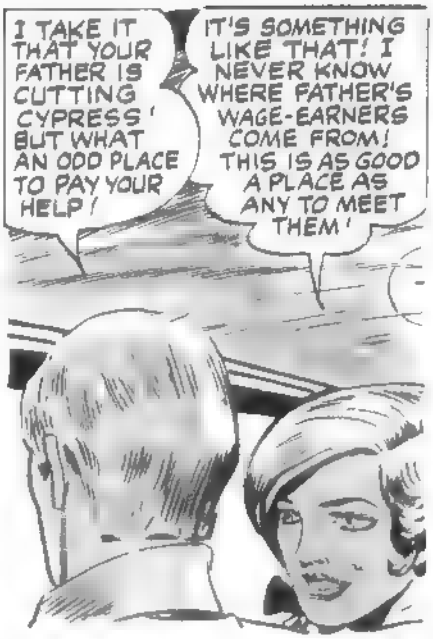
I'VE GOT TO WIPE THIS -- WHAT IS IT? IT'S STICKY LIKE BLOOD, BUT IT'S GREEN...
HELLO...

YOU GAVE ME QUITE A BUMP!
WHAT?

THEN I DIDN'T KILL YOU? IN FACT I DIDN'T EVEN SPOIL YOUR DRESS!
OH, YOU RUINED MY CLOTHES, BUT I HAD OTHERS IN MY SUITCASE! I CHANGED BEFORE COMING HERE INTO THE LIGHT!

WHEW! WELL AT LEAST LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME!
WOULD YOU MIND?

WHY WAS A LOVELY CREATURE LIKE YOU DOING ON THAT ROAD?
I HAVE TO MEET SOMEONE, TO GIVE HIM HIS WAGES-- FOR FATHER! TURN HERE! I LIVE HERE IN THE EVERGLADES!


I TAKE IT THAT YOUR FATHER IS CUTTING CYPRESS! BUT WHAT AN ODD PLACE TO PAY YOUR HELP!
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT! I NEVER KNOW WHERE FATHER'S WAGE-EARNERS COME FROM! THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO MEET THEM!

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN GO FARTHER! THANKS! WISH YOU COULD STOP A WHILE, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN!
YES... AN APPOINTMENT, BUT...

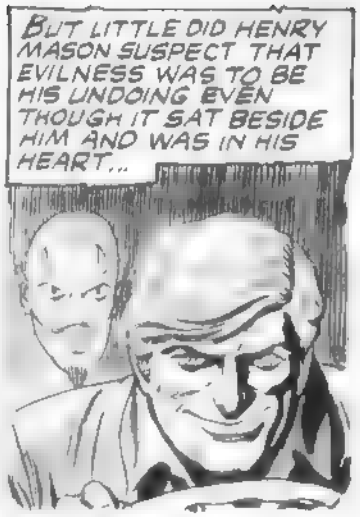
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, WON'T I? I'M HENRY MASON!
OH, OF COURSE, HENRY... WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH YOUR--APPOINTMENT-- I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT HERE!

BUT, HOW WILL YOU KNOW... UH SHE'S GONE!

A STRANGE GIRL... BUT WHAT A BABE! YES, I'LL SEE HER AGAIN, ALL RIGHT. SHE AND I WILL BE KISSING THIS... GHASTLY SWAMP GOOD-BYE... SOONER THAN SHE KNOWS!

TURNING THE CAR BACK TO THE HIGHWAY, HENRY AGAIN HEADED TOWARD HIS DESTINATION...

AN EVILNESS WAS HIS COMPANION AS HE DROVE TOWARD AN UNSUSPECTING BUT WORRIED FIANCEE!


BUT LITTLE DID HENRY MASON SUSPECT THAT EVILNESS WAS TO BE HIS UNDOING EVEN THOUGH IT SAT BESIDE HIM AND WAS IN HIS HEART...

HERE AT LAST... NOW FOR THE DIRTY WORK!

BUT EVEN AS HENRY MASON RANG THE DOORBELL TO CALL ON HIS TRUSTING DATE, HE SENSED A SINISTER FEELING THAT OVERPOWERED HIM...
...CASTING HIS FEARS TO ONE SIDE, HE ENTERED THE HOUSE...

OH, HENRY, I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME!
I WAS DELAYED, DARLING! IS EVERYTHING READY?

I'VE DRAWN ALL MY MONEY FROM THE BANK, DEAREST. HERE IT IS!
GOOD! AND THE CARDS?

YES, I HAVE THEM ALL HERE! LISTEN TO THIS: 'DEAR COUSIN BLANCHE... HENRY AND I ARE SO HAPPY! WE ARE SPENDING A FEW DAYS AT NIAGRA FALLS..

IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS YOUR SUGGESTING WE WRITE ALL OF OUR CARDS BEFORE LEAVING, DEAR! NOW WE CAN SPEND EVERY MINUTE TOGETHER!
THEN LET'S GO, SWEETHEART! IF YOU WANT YOUR OLD FAMILY PASTOR TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY, WE'LL HAVE TO DRIVE ALL NIGHT TO REACH HIS PRESENT PARISH!

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

IT'S ODD, HENRY, THAT HAVING LIVED AROUND HERE ALL YOUR LIFE, YOU SHOULD INSIST ON DRIVING TO THESE SWAMPS TODAY!
I REALLY NEVER HAD TIME TO VISIT THEM, MY LOVE, AND THOUGHT I SHOULD BEFORE DRIVING NORTH! LET'S GET OUT OF THE CAR!

HERE, DEEP IN THE SWAMPLAND, YOU CAN FEEL THE POWER OF NATURE!
IT'S ACTUALLY SPOOKY! I'D BE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH IF I WEREN'T WITH YOU!

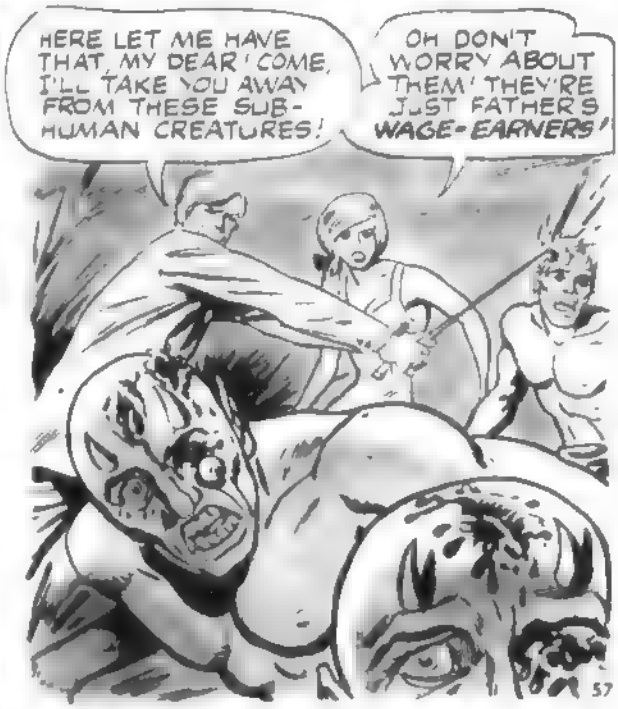
HENRY, YOU'RE PRESSING MY THROAT! HENRY, YOU'RE CHOKING... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HENRY!
YOU GET THE IDEA!

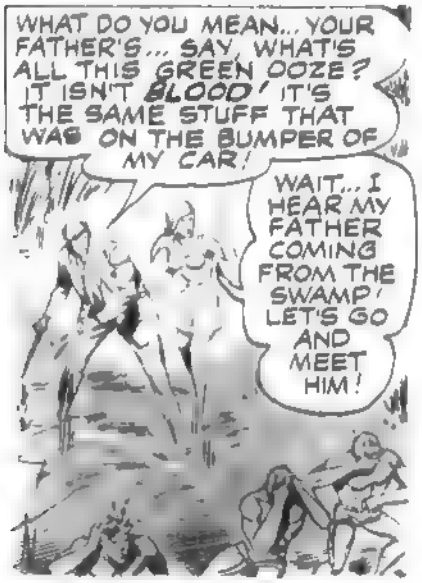
TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH... A STACK OF POST CARDS TO THROW RELATIVES OFF THE TRACK! I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SEE MY LITTLE BEAUTY OF THE SWAMPS!

I KNEW YOU'D COME, HENRY... I WANT YOU TO MEET THE REST!
I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD!

HELLO, EVERYONE! THIS IS HENRY!
HENRY!
HENRY!
LET US FEEL HIM!

YES! FEEL HIM! THIS IS HENRY!
AWK!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!


HERE LET ME HAVE THAT, MY DEAR! COME, I'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THESE SUB-HUMAN CREATURES!
OH DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! THEY'RE JUST FATHER'S WAGE-EARNERS!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN... YOUR FATHER'S... SAY, WHAT'S ALL THIS GREEN OOZE? IT ISN'T BLOOD! IT'S THE SAME STUFF THAT WAS ON THE BUMPER OF MY CAR!
WAIT... I HEAR MY FATHER COMING FROM THE SWAMP! LET'S GO AND MEET HIM!

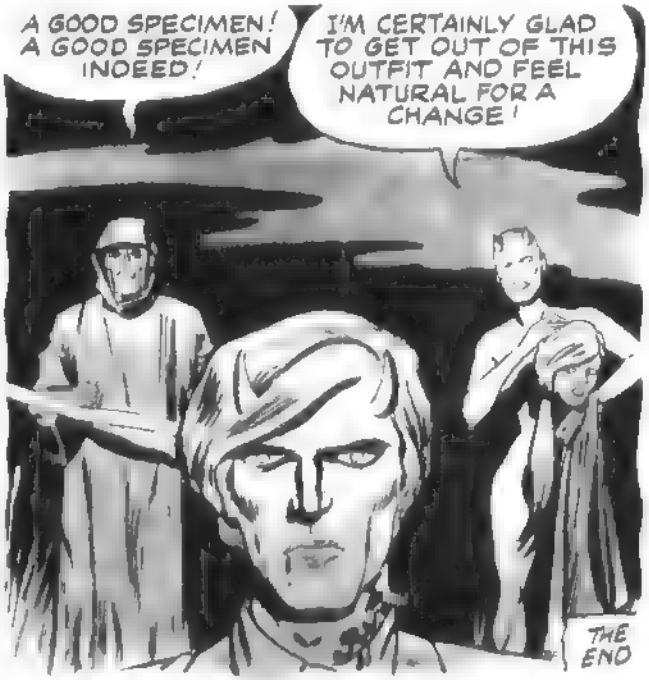
FATHER! I HAVE ANOTHER WAGE EARNER... HENRY MASON!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? I DON'T WORK FOR YOUR FATHER!
WHO SAID YOU DID?

THEN WHAT WAGES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY, THE WAGES OF SIN... DEATH!

ARGH-H-H-H!

HERE IS HENRY, FATHER! HE'LL FIND OTHER WAGE-EARNERS FOR YOU... FOR HE REALLY RECOGNIZES SIN!!


A GOOD SPECIMEN! A GOOD SPECIMEN INDEED!
I'M CERTAINLY GLAD TO GET OUT OF THIS OUTFIT AND FEEL NATURAL FOR A CHANGE!
THE END

A LITTLE BLOB OF PROTOPLASM! THE FOUNDATION OF ALL LIFE AND BEAUTY!! YET ITS SECRET IN THE HANDS OF AN EVIL MADMAN CHANGED IT INTO A...
SPIDER
IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, I'LL HAVE COMPLETED MY MOST FAMOUS EXPERIMENT! I WILL HAVE CRACKED THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS WALL OF NATURE!
INTO THE QUIVERING JELLY-LIKE MASS FLOWS THE SECRET FLUID, CHANGING THE LIFELESS BLOB INTO CHARGED VITALITY...
NOW WE SHALL SEE...

CHANGING IT'S FORMLESS MASS INTO..
A..A SNAKE! THE PROTOPLASM MUST HAVE BEEN THE WRONG CONSISTENCY! BUT... BUT THE EXPERIMENT WORKED!
I MUST TELL THE OTHERS... I'VE FOUND IT! THE SECRET OF PROTO-PLASM... THE SUBSTANCE OF LIFE! COME IN AND SEE!
THANK HEAVEN IT TURNED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL AGAIN!
WHAT DID YOU DO, DR LARSON?
I HAVE FOUND THAT THIS BLOB OF PROTOPLASM.. INJECTED WITH MY SECRET FORMULA WILL GIVE FORTH LIFE!
WHAT THE LIFE FORM WILL BE DEPENDS ON THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROTOPLASM. THIS SAME JELLY AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES MAY PRODUCE A HUMAN, A MONSTER, A REPTILE OR ANY FORM OF LIFE WE KNOW OR PERHAPS DON'T KNOW!
I I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! WILL YOU SHOW US AN EXPERIMENT, DOCTOR!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT WORKS AFTER I REST FOR A FEW MINUTES!
SOMETHING BIG IS GOING ON HERE! THERE'S A STORY IN IT IF I CAN ONLY FIND OUT WHAT THEIR EXPERIMENT IS THINK I'LL SNOOP AROUND.
FUNNY, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO STICK A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE INTO SOMETHING LIKE THE MAD SCIENTISTS IN THE MOVIES! THERE!
IN THE MYSTERIOUS LABORATORY, THE CURIOUS REPORTER SEARCHES, LITTLE KNOWING THAT IN HIS HAND HE HOLDS THE SECRET OF LIFE.
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING HERE, BUT THIS NEEDLE AND THAT PILE OF GOOEY STUFF!
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING TO BE FOUND HERE. HUH WHAT'S THAT?
SLOWLY IN ANSWER TO THE FORCES OF THE FLUID, THE BLOB BEGAN TO MOVE STRETCHING LIKE THE FETID TENTACLES OF A HORRID SEA MONSTER...
NOTHING HERE I WONDER JUST WHAT DOC LARSON HAS UP HIS SLEEVE

I HOPE IT WORKS AGAIN!
INTO THE SLIMY CREATURE OF EVIL FLOODED THE STRANGE ELIXER! THE SAME FLUID THAT GAVE IT LIFE
REDUCED THAT LIFE INTO A BLOB OF DRIPPING OOZE
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT REPORTER'S DEATH!
THAT FOOL MUST HAVE INJECTED THE PROTO-PLASM!
YOU YOU FIEND! WHAT HAVE YOU CREATED IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE!
BUT..BUT LISTEN TO ME THIS DISCOVERY IS FOR GOOD, NOT EVIL!
HELP! DOCTOR LARSON HAS CREATED A MONSTER TO OVER-THROW MANKIND!
L...LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
DON'T WORRY! IF LARSON'S RESPONSIBLE FOR TIM'S DEATH, HE'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM...
BETTER WATCH OUT, CHIEF, HE MAY HAVE SOME CREATURE WAITING FOR US!

THE FOOLS! BUT I COULD NEVER EXPLAIN TO THEM. THE ALL THINK I'M CREATING AN EVIL FORCE! I... I MUST HIDE UNTIL I CAN RETURN AND COMPLETE MY WORK
HUNTED, FEARFUL OF MAN, THE SCIENTIST MUST HIDE LIKE AN ODIOUS REPTILE...
HE MUST HAVE PASSED THIS WAY!
IT... IT'S CREEPY HERE! I WISH WE COULD FIND HIM IN A HURRY! I'D LIKE TO GET OUT OF THESE WOODS...
ARE. AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK IN THE LOFT?
NAW... NOT ME! HE... HE'S NOT THERE ANYWAY...
BUT FEAR AND FLIGHT TOOK THEIR TOLL, AND THE MIND OF THE FUGITIVE, ONCE FILLED WITH THE GOOD OF MANKIND, NOW SNAPPED.
HUNT ME, WILL THEY! NOW IT IS MY TURN TO HUNT! HEH! HEH!
NOW, FLUID, GIVE LIFE TO THIS MASS OF JELLY AND CREATE A CREATURE OF EVIL TO AVENGE MY WRONGS
AND WREAK HAVOC ON MY OPPRESSORS...

GROW! GROW!! BEAST OR DEVIL, APPEAR AND FOLLOW MY COMMANDS
BUT SOMETHING MIS-CARRIED! SLOWLY THE GRUESOME THING OF TERROR, CREATED TO DESTROY, APPEARED! THEN...
N NO! NOT ME! I CREATED YOU! YOU MUST FOL-LOW MY COMMANDS! S-STOP!
IF I CAN ONLY INJECT THE FLUID IN HIM ARRGHH!
MASTERING ALL OF HIS DYING STRENGTH, LARSON PLUNGED THE HOLLOW NEEDLE OF THE HYPODERMIC INTO THE PUTRID BACK! BUT BEFORE HE COULD PRESS THE PLUNGER DEATH!

HIS MOUTH STILL WET WITH SWEET HUMAN BLOOD, THE MONSTER'S CANNIBAL BRAIN THIRSTS FOR MORE
AND MORE
SNORT!! SNORT!!
UHHHH. UH. UH
...AND MORE
HELP!! HELP! SHRIEEK!
SNORT!! SNORT!!
NO! NO! YIIIIII!
HE MUST BE IN THIS AREA! WE HAVE THE WHOLE PLACE SURROUNDED.. IF YOU SEE HIM YELL AND SHOOT!
DON'T WORRY! HE WON'T GET AWAY!
WE'LL GET HIM TONIGHT!
HE'S COME THIS WAY, THERE'S HIS TRACK
LET'S GO! WE'VE GOT HIM ON THE RUN NOW
THERE THERE HE IS!!
UHH!. HE'S HORRIBLE!

HE JUST WENT INTO THE GRAVEYARD!
THE FETID, BLOOD-BEDABBLED FIEND, ONCE FEARED, NOW FEARING, BACKS AWAY FROM THE SEARCHERS.. UNTIL
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT! HE HE'S DISINTEGRATING.
HE'S TURNING TO JELLY...
THE SAME PROCESSES WHICH CREATED HIM BEGIN THEIR INSIDIOUS DEGENERATION...
LOOK! THE MONSTER DESTROYED ITSELF ON TIM'S GRAVE..
TIM AVENGED HIS MURDER. . EVEN THO HE'LL NEVER KNOW IT!
WELL IT'S ALL OVER! WE CAN REST EASY AGAIN!
YES! IF NO ONE PRESSES THAT BEWITCHED NEEDLE!
THE END
AND SO THE ALL CONSUMING FIRE DESTROYS THE EVIL MAN-MADE LIFE, AND THE ASCENDING SMOKE ACTS AS A WARNING TO ALL WHO WOULD MEDDLE WITH THE SACRED FORCES OF NATURE.

A NEEDLE AND THREAD SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH. BUT THEY CAN BECOME IMPLEMENTS OF HORROR AS CALEB WILKS FOUND OUT!

FROM THE GRAVE BELOW

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO, CALEB WILKS AND JEREMIAH BRANT WERE PARTNERS IN A SMALL TAILOR-SHOP... ***PARTNERS***...BUT NEVER ***FRIENDS!***

BY JUDAS, CALEB ....YOU KNOW I DIDN'T STEAL THAT DOLLAR!

YOU LIE, JEREMIAH! YOU'VE ALWAYS STOLEN FROM ME!

CURSE YOU FOR YOUR EVIL THOUGHTS! WHA--! NO....! AAAGGRRH--!

HE-HEH-HEE! THERE! I'LL NEVER HAVE TO HEAR YOU AGAIN, YOU OLD WRETCH! AND THE SHOP IS ALL MINE! MINE...!

AND LATE THAT NIGHT, THE FIENDISH TAILOR BURIES HIS MURDERED PARTNER BEHIND THEIR TAILOR SHOP....!
MAY YOU REST IN PEACE, JEREMIAH! HEE-HEE....!
AFTER COMPLETING HIS NEFARIOUS WORK, CALEB RETURNS TO THE SHOP AND WORKS FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT! I'LL HAVE MORE WORK FROM NOW ON...
SLEEP WELL, JEREMIAH! HEE-HEE...!
"..SLEEP WELL, JEREMIAH!"....IF CALEB HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT HIS DEAD, DEPARTED PARTNER WASN'T SLEEPING AT ALL!
SEWING TO BE DONE, AND MUCH OF IT MINE! I SHALL DO IT, CALEB! YOU SHALL SEE...! HA-HA-HAA!
THE NEXT MORNING....
STRANGE...! I MUST HAVE DONE THEM AND FORGOTTEN...YES, THAT'S IT!
IS MY COAT READY, MR. WILKS?
YES, MRS. THOMAS! I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE!
MY....HOW NICE! WHA....! THE COAT...! IT'S ALIVE! IT'S STRANGLING ME....!
CALEB WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED HAD HE WITNESSED THE HORRIBLE SCENE THAT TRANSPIRED AT THE THOMAS HOME. SHOCKED BUT NO MORE SO THAN THE DOOMED WOMAN....!!

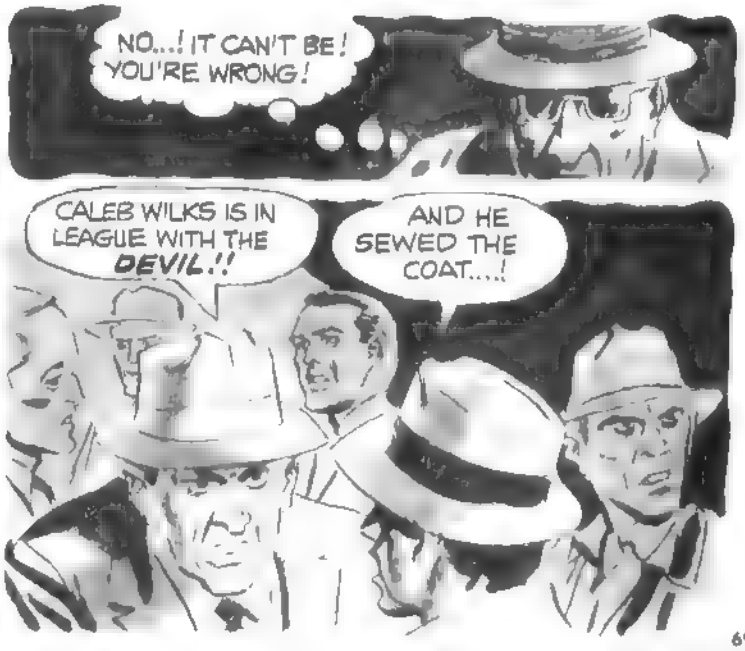
AAAGGHHR... THE COAT!! AAIEE!

NEWS OF MRS. THOMAS' DEATH SWEEPS THE LITTLE HAMLET....!
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS STRANGE--
IT DOES, EPHRAIM!

AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, DEATH ONCE AGAIN STRIKES FIENDISHLY..!
CALEB DID A GOOD JOB, JOHN!
YES, HE...! WHA--!

THE COAT--! IT'S KILLING ME!!AAGHHRR..!
JOHN! WHAT--! HELP...!!

WHEN NEWS OF THE SECOND HORRIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS DEATH SPREADS....IT BECOMES THE TOPIC OF MUCH FRIGHTENED CONVERSATION AND CONJECTURE!
IT WAS THE COAT...! THE COAT KILLED MY HUSBAND!
HOW COULD A COAT STRANGLE A MAN?


NO...! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE WRONG!
CALEB WILKS IS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL!!
AND HE SEWED THE COAT....!

THE STRICKEN TAILOR RUSHES BACK TO THE SHOP, UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS!
...JERE....JEREMIAH... IT CAN'T BE....!

YOU....YOU'RE DEAD, I KILLED YOU...
BUT IT IS ME, CALEB! I HAVE RETURNED TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR WORK! HA-HA-HA....!

MADDENED WITH FEAR, THE HYSTERICAL CALEB RUSHES WILDLY FROM THE SHOP AND ITS GHASTLY VISITOR...TO JEREMIAH'S GRAVE!
I MUST SEE...! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE! HE MUST BE WITHIN!

YOU ARE STILL HERE, JEREMIAH! WHAT WAS I IN FEAR OF! IT WAS MY IMAGINATION....! THAT'S IT! A HALLUCINATION!

BUT THE NEXT DAY, DEATH AGAIN STRIKES....
AAGHHRRR...! I.....CAN'T.... BREATHE...!
THE COAT...! IT'S CALEB WILKS' COAT!! HELP...!

THE NORMALLY TRANQUIL COMMUNITY IS AROUSED TO DRASTIC ACTION BY THIS THIRD HIDEOUS DEATH....!
CALEB'S A WITCH! I SAY LET'S GET HIM!
YES...BEFORE HE GETS US! HE'S A SON OF SATAN!
LET'S GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE!

AND WHAT WAS A DISORGANIZED, FEARFUL GROUP, IS TRANSFORMED INTO A VICIOUS MOB....BENT UPON RETRIBUTION...!
THEY...THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! THEY THINK I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE DEATHS!
HIS ONE THOUGHT BUT TO SAVE HIS MISERABLE LIFE, THE FEAR-CRAZED TAILOR THROWS HIS CLOAK OVER HIS SHOULDERS AND STARTS FOR THE REAR DOOR...!
THIS BUTTON...! IT WASN'T HERE BEFORE

IT'S JEREMIAH'S WORK...! THIS CLOAK...I-I'M BEING STRANGLED! AAARGGHHRR...!
HE'S INSIDE!
HE'S A WITCH!
BURN THE SHOP!

AND AS THE SHOP IS TRANSFORMED INTO A RAGING INFERNO, IT BECOMES THE FUNERAL PYRE FOR CALEB WILKS, WHO THOUGHT THAT A CRIME COULD BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE GRAVE....!
A!!!EEE...!

STRANGE...! DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE OLD JEREMIAH LAUGHING INSIDE!
THE END

HOW BEAUTIFUL THESE FIGURINES ARE! SO LIFE-LIKE! I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THEM!

JA! ARE THEY NOT MOST EXQUISITE? IT'S OUR FIRST SHIPMENT! SUCH CRAFTSMANSHIP. YSIN?

IF YOU FOUND OUT WHAT WENT ON AT THE NEW REDUCING SALON IN OBERLIN PLATZ, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU TOO WOULD AVOID

THE GLASS MORGUE

FRAU FREIDA HERTZEL ALIGHTED FROM THE TRAIN AT DRESDEN AND FOUND HER HUSBAND WAITING FOR HER ON THE STATION PLATFORM...

FRIEDA, MY DEAR! DID YOU HAVE A NICE TRIP? HOW IS THE FAMILY IN MUNICH?

KURT! WHAT A SURPRISE! I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO MEET ME!

YOU MUST HAVE CLOSED THE STORE EARLY TO COME TO THE STATION. YOU DID NOT HAVE TO DO THAT FOR ME, KURT!

ACH... FREIDA... YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THIS CITY! EVER SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN IN MUNICH VISITING...

...NO LESS THAN TWENTY WOMEN HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! WHEN WE GET HOME YOU WILL SEE THEIR PICTURES IN THE NEWSPAPERS!

ACH! I TELL YOU... NO WOMAN IS SAFE ALONE ON THE STREETS! HERE ARE THE NEWSPAPERS!

OH,.. MEIN GOTT!
WHAT IS IT, FRIEDA? YOU KNOW SOME OF THEM?

NO, BUT THESE PICTURES REMIND ME OF SOME MAGNIFICENT DRESDEN CHINA FIGURINES I SAW IN A SHOP WHEN I WAS IN MUNICH!

THEY ARE SO REALISTIC! SUCH WORKMANSHIP!
JA, MEIN FRAU! THE VERY BEST DRESDEN, TOO! OUR FIRST SHIPMENT FROM THE PERSON WHO MAKES THEM!

"I WANTED TO BUY A PAIR.. A MAN LIKE YOU, AND A LADY JUST LIKE ME!"
I'M SORRY, MEIN FRAU! I DON'T THINK WE RECIEVED ANY! ERIC... WERE THERE ANY THIN ONES!
NO, PERHAPS WE COULD PLACE A SPECIAL ORDER FOR THE LADY.
THANK YOU... I LIVE IN DRESDEN! I WILL LOOK FOR WHAT I WANT WHEN I RETURN HOME!

KURT... I NEVER HAVE SEEN SUCH FIGURINES EVEN HERE IN DRESDEN! THEY LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE THESE PICTURES!
NONSENSE, FREIDA! IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION!

THE NEXT DAY, FRAU HERTZEL WAS VISITED BY HER GOOD FRIEND FRAU BOEHMLER...
HILDA ..YOU'VE PUT ON SO MUCH WEIGHT SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!
DO NOT BLAME ME FRIEDA! YOU HAVE HEARD WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE! IT'S AWFUL!

THREE OF THOSE WOMEN I KNEW! THEY WENT TO HERR BOSZ... JUST LIKE I DO! NOW THEY'RE GONE! I'M SO NERVOUS, I CAN'T STOP EATING!

LOOK AT ME!... HOW FAT I AM I'M ON MY WAY TO HERR BOSZ NOW! COME WITH ME FRIEDA! I'M AFRAID TO GO OUT ALONE!

AH, FRAU BOEHMLER! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU ..AND WHO IS YOUR CHARMING FRIEND?
HERR BOSS! THIS IS MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, FRAU HERTZEL!

A PLEASURE! EVEN THOUGH YOU WILL NEVER NEED MY SERVICES! MY BUSINESS IS SO SLOW NOW WITH WOMEN AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES!
WELL ..COME FRAU BOEHMLER! FRAU HERTZEL CAN WAIT FOR YOU HERE!

BUT IT WAS LONGER THAN FRAU HERTZEL EXPECTED! SEATED IN A SOFT CHAIR, SHE BECAME DROWSY! HER HEAD NODDED.. HER EYES CLOSED ..AND SHE WAS ASLEEP.

SUDDENLY SHE WAS AWAKENED BY A TERRIFYING SCREAM!
HILDA!! WHAT'S HAPPENING!! HILDA!!
AAIIIIYYEEAHH!

HILDA! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S HAPPENING? HILDA! ANSWER ME!!

FRAU HERTZEL, WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING? WHAT'S WRONG?
HERR BOSZ! WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM? MY FRIEND, WHERE IS SHE?

SCREAM? I HEARD NO SCREAM, FRAU HERTZEL! AS FOR YOUR FRIEND.. FRAU BOEHMLER WHY SHE LEFT ALMOST AN HOUR AGO!

BUT I TELL YOU I HEARD IT! IT WAS FRAU BOEHMLER! I KNOW IT WAS!
ACH! YOU ARE MISTAKEN, FRAU HERTZET! COME AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! YOUR FRIEND COULD NOT FIND YOU AND LEFT! THEN I SAW YOU ASLEEP IN THE CHAIR! I DID NOT WISH TO DISTURB YOU! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING!

THEY LOOKED BUT FOUND NOTHING! FRAU HERTZEL LEFT FOR HOME..
THERE S SOMETHING STRANGE.. TOMORROW I MUST GO TO HILDA'S HOUSE TO SEE IF SHE S ALL RIGHT!

BUT TOMORROW NEVER CAME! THAT EVENING SOMEBODY POUNDED THE KNOCKER ON FRAU HERTZEL'S DOOR...
MY WIFE!.. WHERE IS SHE? SHE IS MISSING! DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS? I CAN'T FIND HER!
HERR BOEHMLER! SHE WAS WITH ME TODAY AT HERR BOSZ'S! I FELL ASLEEP WAITING FOR HER!

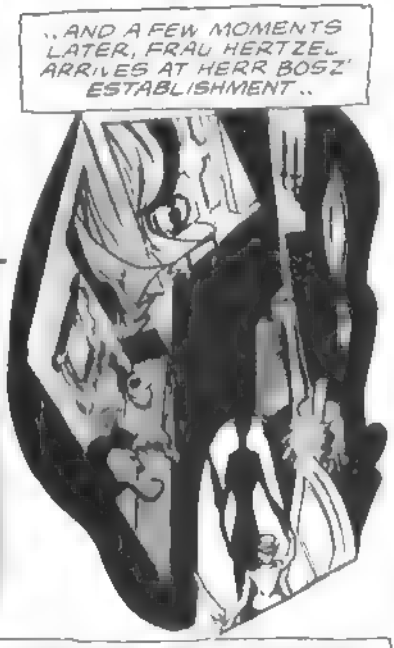
I WAS AWAKENED BY A SCREAM! I THOUGHT IT WAS HILDA! HERR BOSZ SAID I WAS ONLY DREAMING... THAT HILDA LEFT! HE SHOWED ME AROUND... NOBODY WAS THERE!
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO MY WIFE! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE!

THOSE MISSING WOMEN... HILDA KNEW THREE OF THEM... AND THEY ALL WENT TO HERR BOSZ REDUCING SALON..

...I MUST GO BACK TO HERR BOSZ' ESTABLISHMENT... HE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO THOSE WOMEN... BUT I CAN'T LET KURT KNOW WHERE I'M GOING!
FRIEDA, WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?

FRIEDA.. WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IT IS NOT SAFE OUT ALONE!
IT WAS THE BAKERY BOY... THEY COULDN'T DELIVER MY ORDER! I MUST GO TO THE OTHER STORE! I WON'T BE LONG!

IT IS VERY STRANGE... TERRIBLE PERHAPS! THOSE WOMEN... ALL FAT... AND THOSE FIGURINES...


..AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER, FRAU HERTZEL ARRIVES AT HERR BOSZ' ESTABLISHMENT..

FRAU HERTZEL PROWLED AROUND SILENTLY INSIDE! FROM ROOM TO ROOM SHE WENT! ALL WERE IN ORDER... EXCEPT...
THIS ONE... LOCKED! HE MADE ME PASS IT BY TODAY... THERE'S A QUEER ODOR... SOMEONE IS INSIDE...

THE DOOR SUDDENLY FLEW OPEN! FRAU HERTZEL WAS PETRIFIED, PINNED, IN A STREAM OF LIGHT...
ACH! SO, FRAU HERTZEL! HA, HA.. AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MY CHARMING LADY?

MY FRIEND... FRAU BOEHMLER... SHE HAS DISAPPEARED YOU DIDN'T LET HER GO TODAY.. SHE'S STILL HERE. THAT WAS HER I HEARD SCREAM!... I KNOW IT..

THOSE OTHER WOMEN... ALL THOSE WHO CAME HERE THEY ALL DISAPPEARED YOU DO SOMETHING TO ALL OF THEM!
HA, HA, HA, HOW CLEVER A WOMAN YOU ARE FRAU HERTZEL

HA...HA...HA...! AND HOW RIGHT YOU ARE. NONE OF THOSE WOMEN EVER DID LEAVE HERE! WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY?

I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, FRAU HERTZEL! YOU SEE I HAVE A HOBBY! A VERY SPECIAL HOBBY!

THE SIGN OUTSIDE MY DOOR... IT REFERS TO MY HOBBY, TOO! BUT NOBODY KNOWS IT! COME... I WILL SHOW YOU MY HOBBY!

THIS IS MY SECRET WORKROOM, FRAU HERTZEL... AND THERE IS YOUR FRIEND, FRAU BOEHMLER! IS THAT NOT A FINE JOB? NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY HOBBY?

SCREAM ALL YOU LIKE, MEIN FRAU HERTZEL... NOBODY CAN HEAR YOU! AND NOW... BECAUSE YOU KNOW MY SECRET... I MUST DO WITH YOU AS I HAVE DONE WITH ALL THE OTHERS!

YOU ARE THE FIRST OF YOUR KIND TO UNDERGO MY TREATMENT, FRAU HERTZEL! ALL THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN FAT LADIES!

ALL THAT NIGHT A TRAIL OF SMOKE EMERGED FROM THE CHIMNEY OF HERR BOSZ ESTABLISHMENT. HERR BOSZ WAS WORKING ON HIS HOBBY!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON PULLED UP TO THE SIDE DOOR OF THE BOSZ REDUCING SALON! A LARGE CRATE WAS LIFTED INTO THE WAGON...

THE NEXT DAY, THE CRATE WAS OPENED IN A CHINA SHOP IN MUNICH..
IS THAT THE NEW SHIPMENT FROM BOSZ IN DRESDEN, ERIC?
JA, MEIN HERR! LOOK AT THIS ONE! ISN'T IT A BEAUTY?

AND LOOK AT THIS ONE! A THIN ONE... THE FIRST THIN ONE HE'S SENT!
ACH! STRANGE BUT THIS ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE THE LADY WHO WAS IN HERE LOOKING FOR A THIN FIGURINE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO!
End

A WEIRD TWIST OF FATE

HA HA HA!

C'MON VIRGIL ...*FIGHT!* YOU KNOW THE *TERMS* OF THIS *BOUT!* YOU GOT TO *WIN! FIGHT! FIGHT!*

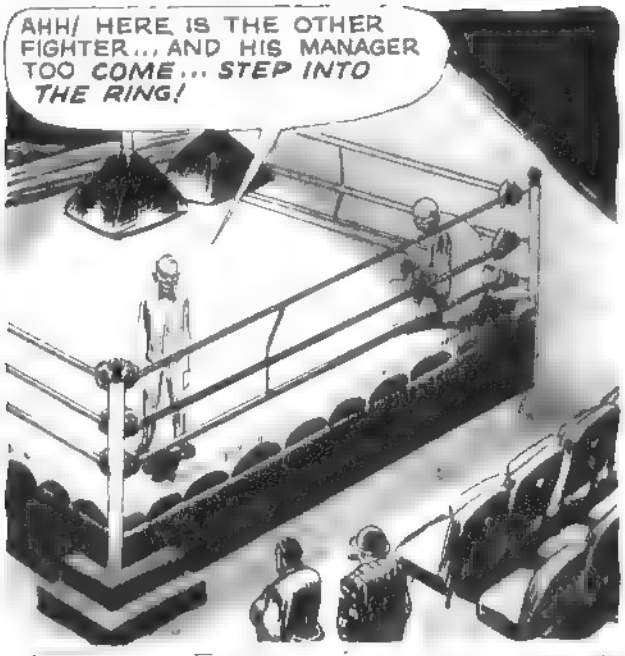
A LONE FIGURE WALKS THROUGH A LITTERED CORRIDOR, THROUGH A HEAVY, OMINOUS SILENCE

DRESSING ROOM

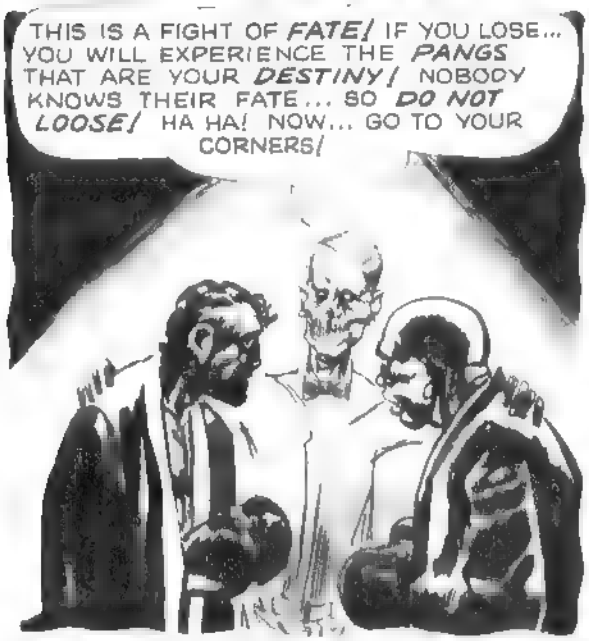
THEN, HE COMES TO A DOOR AND STOPS. HE'S COME TO THE *RIGHT* DOOR...

ROOM

A MAN SITS ALONE BEHIND THAT DOOR...
I... I KNOW I MUST FIGHT! BUT I DON'T KNOW MY OPPONENT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I WIN... OR LOSE! AND I'M ALONE... ALL ALONE! I NEED HELP I...
WAIT! SOMEONE AT THE DOOR, WHO?
WHA...?
HELLO, VIRGIL MY NAME'S SAM KANE. I LEARNED THAT YOU'RE FIGHTING... AND I'VE COME TO HELP YOU!
I SURE NEED IT, MR. KANE... BUT WHY ME? WHY SHOULD YOU HELP ME?
STOP WORRYING, AND DON'T ASK SILLY QUESTIONS. I THINK YOU'RE A BORN FIGHTER! YOU'RE SURE TO WIN!
YOU SEE... I'M A MANAGER! I KNOW ABOUT FIGHTERS! LISTEN TO ME... AND YOU'LL WIN! PUT THIS ON AND LET'S GO!
OKAY MR. KANE ANYTHING YOU SAY I'M READY!
SO THE FIGHTER AND HIS NEW MANAGER WALK BACK THROUGH THE CORRIDOR, THEY SEE BEFORE THEM THE SQUARED ARENA... BECKONING, LOOMING...


AHH! HERE IS THE OTHER FIGHTER... AND HIS MANAGER TOO COME... STEP INTO THE RING!

THE FIGHTER AND HIS MANAGER HEAR THE REFEREE'S VOICE, AS THEY CLIMB THROUGH ROPES...
YES, THAT'S IT. NOW... BOTH FIGHTERS WILL GO TO THE CENTER OF THE RING FOR... UH... INSTRUCTIONS! HA HA!


THIS IS A FIGHT OF FATE! IF YOU LOSE... YOU WILL EXPERIENCE THE PANGS THAT ARE YOUR DESTINY! NOBODY KNOWS THEIR FATE... SO DO NOT LOOSE! HA HA! NOW... GO TO YOUR CORNERS!

SO THE TWO CONTESTANTS GO TO THEIR CORNERS. IT'S SOON TO BEGIN... SECONDS TICK BY WITH THE SILENCE OF CRAWLING DEATH... THEN...

GO TO HIM, VIRGIL. I KNOW I'M RIGHT! GO TO HIM!

THE TWO FIGHTERS TRADE BLOWS, AND, THEN FALL INTO A CLINCH...
GOT... UGH! A CLINCH THE FIGHT ...WHY ARE WE FIGHTING ?
I WISH I KNEW, BUSTER, BUT... ONE OF US GOT TO WIN!

...AND IT'S GOING TO BE ME!
UGH!

THE BELL... SAVED BY THE BELL! SO VIRGIL, WITH THANKS WORKED HIS WAY BACK TO HIS CORNER.
THE BELL SAVED YOU, VIRGIL! YOU LEFT YOURSELF WIDE OPEN!
I...KNOW, SOMEONE... COMING... OVER... HERE...

YOU ALMOST LOST IT THAT ROUND. HA HA! YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT YOUR... FATE!
I... I UNDERSTAND...

ROUND TWO!
THERE'S THE BELL NOW... CROSS HIM WITH YOUR LEFT... KEEP ON CROSSING HIM. THEN... HIT HIM WITH THE RIGHT!
YEAH... YEAH...

VIRGIL REMEMBERS HIS MANAGER'S INSTRUCTIONS...
GOT TO CROSS HIM WITH...

... A LEFT

NUMBING BLACKNESS CLOSED IN ON VIRGIL... CAUSING HIM TO SINK INTO THE ESCAPELESS MIRES... CREATING WITHIN HIM THE SCREAMING HORROR OF BLIND *FATE*...

MONSTER TOWN

LOOK! LUNA HAS SEIZED TWO FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

UGH! SUCH DEFORMED BEINGS!

STEP ASIDE! DR. BONO MAY SAVE THEM IF HE OPERATES!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! A VILLAGE OF CREATURES WHERE *WE* ARE THE ONES WHO ARE LOOKED UPON... AS FREAKS!

THE HIDEOUS CREATURES LIVED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN... CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO MEMBERS FROM OUR OWN SOCIETY FALL VICTIM TO THESE MONSTER...

IN THE DEEP SOUTH DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE DRIVE ALONG A STRANGE BACK ROAD!

JOHN, YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ALONG THIS BACK ROAD FOR HOURS! PLEASE... LET'S RETURN TO THE HIGHWAY...

NONESENSE, DARLING! THIS IS THE THRILL OF TOURING... SEEING THE BACK COUNTRY!

SUDDENLY...

BUT, IT'S SO EERIE HERE AND... *JOHN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?*

T-THE BRAKES! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAR!

DOWN... DOWN TOWARD THE RIVER AHEAD SPEEDS THE CAR! FINALLY...
GOOD GRIEF! JUMP, DORIS! JUMP CLEAR!
THE TWO TOURISTS FLOUNDER IN THE WATER... FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL...
I-I CAN'T MAKE IT...
KEEP FIGHTING... DON'T GIVE UP, DORIS!
THEN AS THE GASPING WOMAN IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER TO THE CURRENT...
GASP GASP OH-H...
EEEEEEK! LET ME GO! JOHN! JOHN!
THE WATER CLOSES IN UPON THE WOMAN WHO PREFERS DEATH TO THE TERROR BEFORE HER! ABRUPTLY HANDS CLUTCH AT HER HAIR AND...
UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE DEFORMED BEINGS!
NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SAVE THEM!
G-GREAT HANNAH! W-WHAT MONSTERS... WHAT CAN THEY BE?
PUT HER DOWN, YOU FIEND! DON'T TOUCH HER... YOU'RE FOUL!
WE MUST HELP THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!
Y-YOU ANIMALS... OH-H!
GOOD! WE WILL BRING THEM BACK WITH US TO THE HAMLET!
YES, LUNA... UGH! WHAT SORRY SIGHTS TO BEHOLD!

HOURS LATER, THE REACH THEIR EERIE DESTINATION!

LUNA! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE... MORE OF THE UGLY ONES FROM OUTSIDE?

YES! THESE TWO ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE WE HAVE YET BROUGHT BACK! STEP ASIDE... DR. BONO MUST SEE THEM AT ONCE!

SHORTLY, IN THE DOCTOR'S LABORATORY..

DR. BONO! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TWO MORE... BUT I FEAR THESE ARE BEYOND OUR HELP!

AH, LUNA . YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP I WILL EXAMINE THEM IN A MOMENT!

NOW WHERE ARE THEY...O-OH! YOU DID NOT EXAGGERATE! THEY ARE INDEED HIDEOUS, LUNA!

NO! NO! I-I CAN'T LOOK!

GASP!

YES, THEY ***ARE*** PARTICULARLY UGLY! LUNA! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO SAVE THEM!

YES!

TOMORROW I WILL OPERATE, NOW TAKE THEM TO THE CONFINEMENT BUILDING! I-I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THEM!

O-OPERATE! JOHN... AM I GOING MAD?

STEADY, DORIS.

IN THE DAMP CELL DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE THEIR FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!

I-IT MUST BE A DREAM! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO US, JOHN!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, DORIS! WE'VE STUMBLED UPON A CIVILIZATION IN REVERSE! THESE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES CONSIDER PHYSICAL BEAUTY UGLY!

I-I SEE! THEN .. IN THE R EYES WE ARE THE FREAKS!

EXACTLY! AND JUST AS OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS FIX DISTORTED CREATURES THESE CREATURES INTEND TO MAKE ***US LOOK LIKE THEM!***

JOHN! YOU MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO OPERATE ON US AND... OH, NO!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, DORIS!

TERROR STRICKEN THE HELPLESS PAIR WAIT THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT! THEN
HURRY! DR. BONO IS AWAITING THE FEMALE IN THE OPERATING ROOM!
HEHEHEHE.. INDEED!
J-JOHN! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!

LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS... UGHHH!
SILENCE, FOOL! WE ONLY SEEK TO HELP YOU BOTH! YOU WILL THANK US WHEN IT IS OVER!

NO! NO!
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS THING! GIVE YOURSELVES UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEY WILL HELP YOU!
SURRENDER TO A CIVILIZATION OF FREAKS! NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO NORMAL ONES SUCH AS WE ARE!

YOU CAGE US LIKE ANIMALS IN YOUR ASYLUMS!
T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! DORIS IS RIGHT! THIS MUST BE A DREAM.. A NIGHT-MARE!

AS THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS JOHN AMES' LIFE BECOMES A LIVING HELL!
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HER?
POOR DORIS! :SOB:... WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
I'LL... NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! THEY'VE KILLED HER!

VISIONS OF HIS WIFE'S BEAUTY FILL JOHN'S THOUGHTS THROUGH THE LONG NIGHTS AND DAYS!
OH, DORIS... DORIS! WHAT WILL I EVER DO WITHOUT YOU! THOSE FIENDS... I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!

FINALLY, ON THE FIFTH WEEK THE CREAK OF A DOOR BRINGS AMES TO HIS FEET!
HEE, HEE, UGLY ONE... THE OPERATION IS OVER! BONO HAS SAVED YOUR MATE FROM THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER!
D-DORIS! C-CAN THAT BE DORIS UNDER THE HOOD?
T-THE FIENDS... THEY'VE STOLEN HER MIND AS WELL AS HER FACE! W-WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I DO?
DO NOT GRIEVE... SOON YOU WILL JOIN HER AGAIN!
YES, DARLING.. I SHALL BE WAITING FOR YOU! TOMORROW BONO SHALL OPERATE ON YOU!
SLOWLY, THE HOOD IS RAISED AND A CRY OF HORROR BREAKS FROM JOHN AMES' LIPS!
G-GREAT MERCY... THAT BRACELET... IT IS DORIS!
YES, JOHN! IT IS YOUR WIFE! I AM VERY HAPPY NOW!
HEE! HEE! AND SOON YOU TOO SHALL HAVE A BRAND NEW, BEAUTIFUL FACE, UGLY ONE!
THAT NIGHT, A HEAVY RAIN FALLS INTO AMES' CELL... THE DOCTOR'S MIND REELS UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE HORROR HE HAS SEEN!
IT'S MADNESS... MADNESS! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING! I MUST ESCAPE... GET DORIS TO A DOCTOR! HMMM, I WONDER...
DOCTOR AMES STOOPS TO HIS KNEES... HIS HANDS DIG DEEP INTO THE SOFT CLAY THE RAIN HAS MADE!
YES, YES... WITH THIS CLAY AND THE STRAW THATCHWORK FROM THE ROOF I MAY BE ABLE TO DO IT! I-I MUST!
AN HOUR LATER, THE GROTESQUE JAILER IS STUNNED AS...
WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING FOR, UGLY ONE... YIIII! YOU ARE NO LONGER UGLY! YOU ARE... HANDSOME!
YES, YES, YOU FOOL! A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED! NOW I'M ONE OF YOU... LET ME OUT! LET ME BE WITH MY WIFE AS YOU PROMISED!
THEN, AS THE STARTLED JAILED OPENS THE CELL DOOR...
THERE, YOU DOG! I'M FREE OF YOUR ACCURSED CELL!

JOHN... YOUR FACE! HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE NORMAL NOW WITHOUT THE OPERATION ... B-BUT WHY DID YOU HIT THE JAILER? HE'S OUR FRIEND!

DORIS, THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR BRAIN! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

INTO THE POURING RAIN JOHN AMES CARRIES HIS STRUGGLING WIFE!

EEEEK! YOU'RE STILL... UGLY! IT WAS ALL A DISGUISE!

YES DARLING.. OF CLAY AND STRAW! PLEASE.. PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME! I'M TRYING TO SAVE US BOTH! W WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO... TO CIVILIZATION!

MILE AFTER MILE DOCTOR AMES WANDERS THROUGH THE GRIM COUNTRYSIDE! FINALLY, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HE LOSES HIS FOOTING AND...

DORIS! DORIS! COME BACK... WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY OUT... PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK!

...THE RAIN CEASES! THEN, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A VILLAGE...

WE FOUND HIM ON THE HIGHWAY, SERGEANT... HE'S RAVING ABOUT BEING ATTACKED BY MONSTERS!

I-IT'S THE TRUTH! THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE...

JUST TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! WE'LL HELP YOU... NOW TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

WHEN JOHN AMES HAS LED THE POLICE TO THE SCENE OF HIS ACCIDENT...

HMM! EVIDENTLY HIS WIFE WAS WASHED DOWN STREAM AFTER THE CRASH!

NO! NO! MONSTERS GRABBED US BOTH! WE COULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FOOTPRINTS.. THERE... BUT THE RAIN WASHED THEM AWAY!

POOR DEVIL.. THE TRADEGY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD AS A HATTER!

SO IT IS, THAT THE DOORS OF THE MADHOUSE OPEN UP TO DOCTOR JOHN AMES!

THEY CALL ME MAD.. PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT! SUCH TERRIBLE VISIONS SEEM FANTASTIC! I-I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT ALL! YES.. POOR, DEAR DORIS WAS DROWNED... JUST LIKE THEY SAY!

AMES SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING! HE'S A FINE GENTLEMAN... I CERTAINLY HOPE HE PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER!

AND IN THE MONTHS TO FOLLOW JOHN AMES DOES PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER SOON THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE HE CAN BE RELEASED!

WE FEEL YOU'VE WON THE BATTLE, DR. AMES! TRY TO KEEP DARK THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND AND TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME! GOODBYE!

KIN TO HOS

BUT AS THE DAYS PASS, DR. AMES CANNOT KEEP THE VISION OF HIS LOVELY WIFE FROM HIS MIND!
NO! NO! MAD THEY MIGHT CALL ME BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A NIGHTMARE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR DORIS! SOMEWHERE OUT IN THAT DREADED COUNTRYSIDE SHE MAY BE WAITING!
NIGHT AND DAY, THE HALF CRAZED DOCTOR ROAMS THE WOODS! THEN...
D-DORIS! DORIS! I'VE FOUND HER! S-SHE'S NORMAL SHE'S HERSELF!
J-JOHN
OH, DARLING...IT WAS TERRIBLE! THEY TRICKED YOU! ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES PRETENDED TO BE ME! THEY...STOLE MY BRACELET SO YOU'D BELIEVE IT!
THE FIENDS! THEIR TWISTED BRAINS WANTED VENGEANCE AGAINST US BECAUSE OF OUR NORMAL LOOKS! THEY SOUGHT TO DRIVE US MAD WITH THAT TRICK!
I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WHEN THEY OPENED MY CELL TO FEED ME! I PLACED A LOCK OF MY HAIR IN THE CATCH...OH, JOHN, TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE!
THE POLICE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM ALL!
SHORTLY AS AMES AND HIS WIFE PLEAD WITH THE POLICE...
NOW, DOCTOR AMES, YOU'VE BEEN A SICK MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN IS BUT YOU KNOW YOUR WIFE DROWNED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT!
GOOD GRIEF! I TELL YOU THIS IS MY WIFE AND THERE ARE MONSTROUS DEVILS OUT THERE IN THE WOODS! YOU MUST BELIEVE US!
YOU KNOW IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WIFE YOU DEFINITELY TOLD US SHE ALWAYS WORE A VALUABLE SILVER BRACELET! THIS WOMAN HAS NONE!
WAIT, DEAR... IF WE PERSIST THEY MAY PUT ME BACK IN THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WE D... BETTER GO!
BUT...
WE'LL JUST FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED, DARLING! AND WE'LL DRIVE BACK HOME!
YES, JOHN... AND THIS TIME WE WON'T TAKE ANY BACK ROADS, WILL WE!
MAD AS MARCH HARES... BOTH OF THEM!
The End

GEORGE HARPER WAS A WRITER, A MASTER OF CREATING NOVEL PLOTS AND STRANGE SITUATIONS. BUT THIS WAS NOT A PRODUCT OF HIS IMAGINATION. THIS WAS ACTUALLY HAPPENING. THERE WAS A.

DEAD THING AMONG US!

THE SETTING WAS PERFECT FOR IT! AN OLD HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY, A STORM! IN FICTION THESE THINGS ALWAYS ACCOMPANY A VISIT FROM THE DEAD! BUT AT FIRST GEORGE HARPER AND HIS WIFE DID NOT KNOW THAT THEY WERE NOT ALONE!
WHAT A NIGHT! MARION, WHAT POSSESSED US TO GO WALKING ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, GEORGE! ..I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER GOING OUT!
THE LAST I REMEMBER IT WAS AFTERNOON AND THE SUN WAS SHINING!
FUNNY... BUT THAT'S WHAT I RECALL TOO! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
MAYBE WE'RE BOTH JUST GETTING OLD, EH? THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF ONE OF MY STORIES!
THE STORIES YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SELL
GEORGE! GEORGE, LOOK!
GEORGE AND MARION COULD STILL SMILE, DESPITE THE BILLS, THE STORIES THAT DIDN'T SELL...THE HEARTACHE!
WE WON'T TALK ABOUT THAT, BUT ABOUT THIS OTHER THING, MARION. I DON'T GET IT! PEOPLE DON'T JUST FORGET HALF A DAY OF THEIR LIVES!
NO, THEY DON'T! BUT WE'LL BOTH THINK BETTER OVER SOME HOT COFFEE! COME INTO THE KITCHEN AND I'LL MAKE SOME!

THE WOMAN STOOD STARING OUT A WINDOW. A PALE WOMAN WHOSE FACE GLEAMED WHITELY!.. AND SUDDENLY GEORGE AND MARION FORGOT THEIR ODD LAPSE OF MEMORY!
GEORGE, WHO IS SHE? SHE LOOKS SO STRANGE! WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
BEATS ME! BUT IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO FIND OUT! MISS!. MISS! WHO ARE YOU?
SHE SHE DOESN'T HEAR YOU!
OBVIOUSLY! MAYBE SHE'S DEAF! WELL, WE'LL SOON SEE!
GEORGE! YOUR HAND... IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH HER!
GEORGE HARPER REACHED OUT TO TOUCH A WHITE SHOULDER.. AND TOUCHED..NOTHING! IF HE AND HIS WIFE FLED, WHO COULD BLAME THEM?
GEORGE, GEORGE, SHE'S COMING AFTER US!
NO! I DON'T THINK SHE'S EVEN AWARE OF US! SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE HERE!
SHE'S GOING INTO THE BEDROOM... IT'S AS IF SHE LIVED HERE! MARION THAT MUST BE IT! THIS HOUSE IS OLD! MAYBE SHE DID LIVE HERE ONCE!... LET'S FOLLOW HER!
NO, GEORGE, I'M AFRAID! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!
DON'T BE A FOOL! WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BE DRIVEN OUT OF OUR HOME BY A... A SPOOK! ESPECIALLY A PRETTY SPOOK WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO WISH US ANY HARM!
LOOK AT HER! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. I'M SCARED TOO, BUT I'M FASCINATED AS WELL! THIS COULD BE THE SAVING OF US, IF I COULD JUST FIND OUT WHO SHE IS... OR WAS!

MARION, I HAVEN'T SOLD A STORY IN MONTHS! THE EDITORS TELL ME MY PLOTS ARE TOO ORDINARY! BUT I COULD SELL A STORY ABOUT A GHOST IN MY OWN HOUSE! IT MIGHT BE A NEW BEGINNING FOR US!
SO THEY STAYED, TREMBLING, SCARCELY DARING TO BREATHE, BUT THEY STAYED!
THEY WATCHED A SHADOW SLEEP IN THEIR BED GO THROUGH A MACABRE PARODY OF THE HABITS OF THE LIVING!
GEORGE, IT'S HORRIBLE! WATCHING HER MOVE AROUND, DO ALL THE THINGS A LIVING WOMAN WOULD DO PLEASE .. LET'S GO!
NO!
MARION, I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOME WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER .
OH, NO! DON'T! IF SHE KNOWS WE'RE HERE... THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
BUT HARPER WAS UTTERLY FASCINATED! HE TRIED TO GET THROUGH TO THAT PALE WRAITH IN EVERY WAY HE COULD THINK OF!
NO USE! I ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE LIVING COMMUNICATED WITH THE DEAD BY RAPPING ... BUT SHE DOESN'T HEAR!
AND YET SHE SEEMS TO BE LISTENING FOR SOMETHING!
BUT WHAT WHAT WOULD A DEAD WOMAN BE WAITING FOR?
GEORGE LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR IT?
YES, A SORT OF HUMMING NOISE .. IT'S COMING CLOSER!
GEORGE WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT!?

MARION CLUNG TO GEORGE IN AN AGONY OF FEAR! SUDDENLY, GEORGE LAUGHED!
THAT NOISE, MARION, DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? IT'S A CAR! SEE IT?
I SEE IT! BUT...SHE SEES IT TOO! IF SHE WASN'T AWARE OF US, WHY SHOULD SHE BE AWARE OF THE CAR?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT NOW MAYBE WE'LL GET SOME ANSWERS OUR VISITOR WAS EXPECTED, LET'S ASK HER!
YOUNG LADY, WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU!
HELEN! HOW ARE YOU?
IT COULDN'T BE, BUT IT WAS! GEORGE HARPER AND HIS WIFE STOOD BY DUMBLY! THEY LISTENED, AND BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND!
ELEANOR! I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T GET HERE TODAY AFTER THAT TERRIBLE STORM LAST NIGHT! I'M FINE... JUST FINE!
HELEN, HOW DID YOU DO IT? THIS LOVELY OLD HOUSE! WHY IT'S JUST PERFECT! HOW DID YOU EVER GET THE OWNER TO SELL IT?
I DIDN'T HAVE TO! IT'S A FASCINATING STORY! THE PREVIOUS OWNER WAS A WRITER... AND NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL! A GEORGE HARPER! AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE AND HIS WIFE COMMITTED SUICIDE, JUST A YEAR AGO IN THIS VERY ROOM!
SUICIDE, BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID TO STAY HERE WITH YOUR HUSBAND AWAY?
FRIGHTENED? OF WHAT? DON'T TELL ME THAT MY NEW HOUSE MIGHT BE HAUNTED? BRAD'S BUSINESS ONLY KEEPS HIM AWAY A FEW DAYS AT A TIME
BESIDES, WHO BELIEVES IN GHOSTS?
THE END
OH YES, THIS WAS REAL! THIS WAS NOT A PRODUCT OF GEORGE HARPER'S IMAGINATION! THERE WAS A GHOST IN THE HOUSE... IN FACT... THERE WERE TWO!

SIGNED IN BLOOD

TOMAS ANGEL WAS A GREAT SCIENTIST A FAMOUS ONE--BUT HE WAS ALSO NINETY YEARS OLD!

BUT MY HEART... ONE MORE ATTACK AND I'LL HAVE HAD MY LAST! STILL A YEAR MORE, A YEAR TO BRING ETERNAL EXISTENCE -- IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

I'D GIVE MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL FOR THE CHANCE!

WOULD YOU?

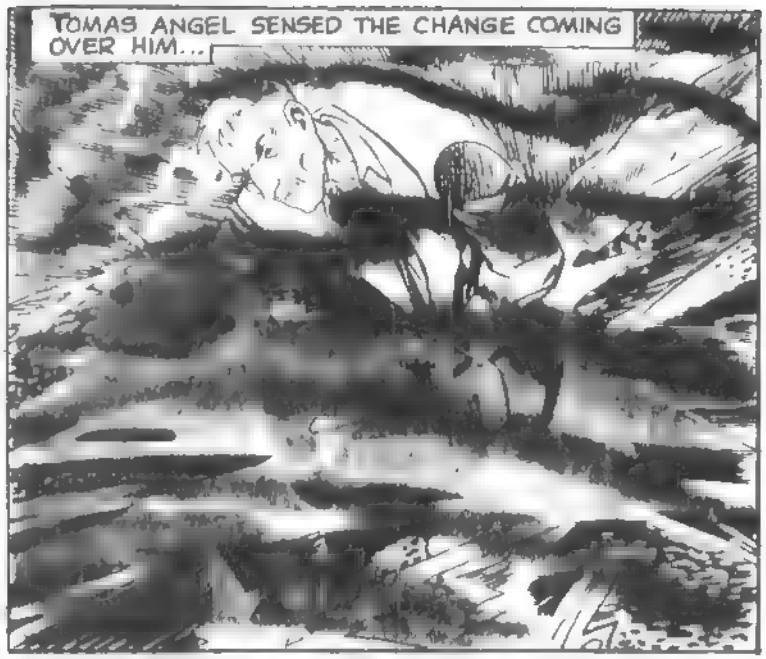
PLEASE, TOMAS, RESTRAIN YOURSELF! I AM VERY REAL TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE... AND I KNOW YOU DO! AND YOU HAVE A PROBLEM THAT I CAN SOLVE!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? T-TO MAKE ME YOUNG AGAIN?

YES, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN FOR A YEAR AND A DAY! TO BE YOUNG AND TO COMPLETE YOUR WORK!
AND WHAT IS YOUR ADVANTAGE?

SURELY, YOU'VE HEARD OF OTHER PACTS... MY PRICE DOESN'T CHANGE! HERE, THIS WON'T HURT VERY MUCH!
OWWW! ALL RIGHT! EXACTLY A YEAR AND A DAY OR OUR CONTRACT IS VOID!

DON'T WORRY! I'M VERY PUNCTUAL -- BUT SEE THAT YOU KEEP YOUR WORD -- FOR NOTHING ON THIS WORLD WILL STOP ME FROM CLAIMING YOUR SOUL!
Tomas Angel

SATAN SIGNED HIS NAME AND TURNED TO THE AGED SCIENTIST...
LOOK AT ME, TOMAS! YOU SHALL BE CHANGED INTO A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN FOR A YEAR AND A DAY! YOU SHALL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT! LOOK AT ME!

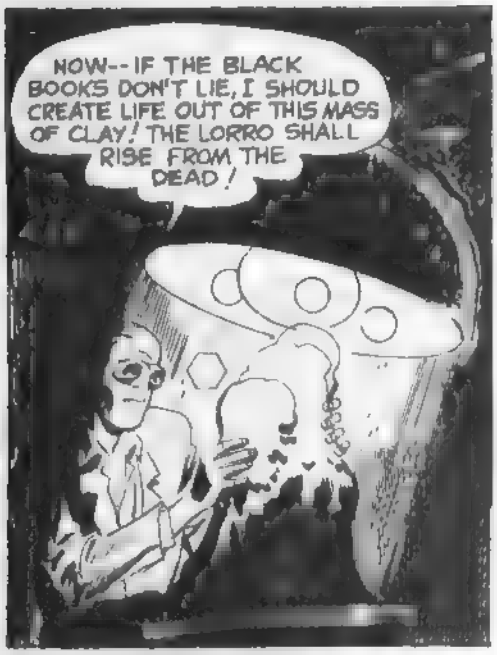

TOMAS ANGEL SENSED THE CHANGE COMING OVER HIM...

AND THEN HE FELT THE CHANGE!

HE LOOKED AROUND... BUT NOW HE WAS ALONE!
HE'S GONE! THE FOOL IS GONE! I'LL NOW GAIN THE POWER OF THE LORRO...

... AND ETERNAL LIFE! YOU'VE MADE A BAD BARGAIN, SATAN, A BAD BARGAIN!

A YOUNG MAN CAN DO THINGS SO MUCH FASTER... ...AND YES, TOMAS ANGEL WAS NOW A YOUNG MAN!
A YEAR TO WORK WITH-- A YEAR TO WIN OUT!


NOW--IF THE BLACK BOOKS DON'T LIE, I SHOULD CREATE LIFE OUT OF THIS MASS OF CLAY! THE LORRO SHALL RISE FROM THE DEAD!

THE DAYS FLEW BY, EXPERIMENT FOLLOWED EXPERIMENT THERE WAS FRUSTRATION, HEARTBREAK--AND A MAD RUSH FOR TIME!
I MUST HURRY--HURRY! NO TIME--NO TIME!

A YEAR IS NOT FOREVER--AND IT DOES HAVE AN END. TOMAS ANGEL REACHED IT AND HE STILL WAS AT WORK!
THIS MUST WORK! IT HAS TO! WAIT--SOMETHING IS HAPPENING!

HA, HA... THERE IT IS! THE LORRO... THE LORRO!

YES, I'VE MADE YOU... I'VE GIVEN YOU EXISTENCE... YOU... YOU WHO CAN GIVE ME ETERNAL LIFE!

BUT IT WAS ALSO TIME FOR A FIGURE TO ARRIVE!
I'VE COME TO COLLECT, TOMAS ANGEL!
COLLECT? HAH! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN WHO IS HERE?

DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOOK DEEPER...

...AND DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE LORRO'S EYES...

UNTIL I GAIN ETERNAL LIFE!

HAH! NOW DO AS YOU WILL TO COLLECT PAYMENT! OR BETTER STILL--ADMIT THAT YOU'VE BEEN BEATEN!

WE MADE A BARGAIN, TOMAS ANGEL...WE SIGNED A PACT IN BLOOD... WE AGREED... IT WAS NOT FORCED!

AND I SHALL HAVE MY PAYMENT!

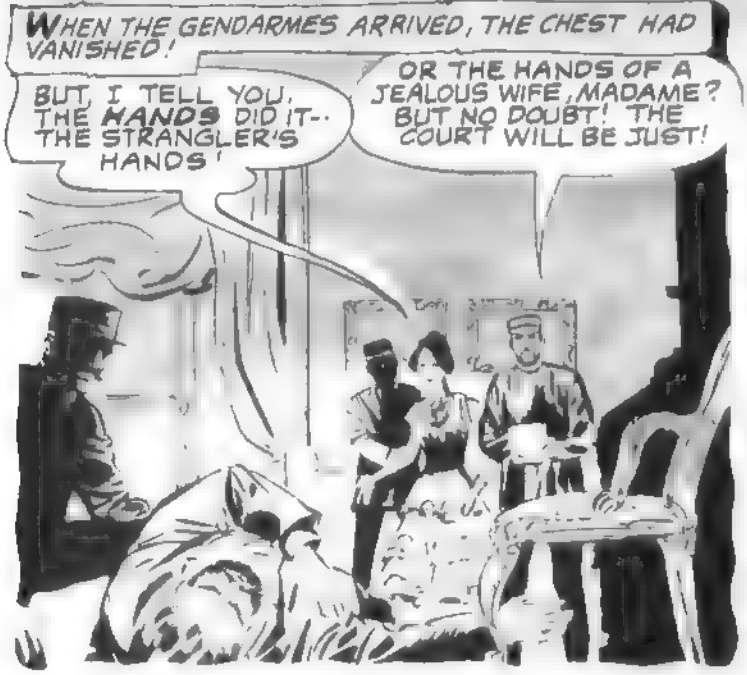
SO LIVE... LIVE FOREVER! BUT MINUS YOUR SOUL!
THE END

THE BLOODY HANDS

HE HAD TERRORIZED ALL FRANCE WITH HIS SAVAGE BRUTALITY.. KILLING FOR SPORT! NOW... A HUNDRED YEARS LATER, A CURSE SCREAMED ON THE GUILLOTINE WAS REVIVING THE ANCIENT TERROR--TURNING A GRUESOME RELIC OF THE PAST INTO A REINCARNATION OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL...

BUT SPARE YOU TO SQUEAL TO THE GENDARMES? I'M NOT STUPID! NOR WOULD I SPARE MYSELF THIS RARE SPORT!
WHAT POWERFUL HANDS I HAVE! I CAN MAKE ALL FRANCE TREMBLE AT MY NAME... IF THEY KNEW MY NAME! BUT WHO SUSPECTS JEAN D'ARST!
ON THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, JEAN D'ARST SATED HIS BLOODLUST ACROSS FRANCE WITH ABANDON!
FRENCH KILLER STRANGLES 27
UNEVITABLY THE MAD STRANGLER WAS CAUGHT RED-HANDED BY AN OUTRAGED MOB!
THERE HE IS! DESTROY THE BEAST! KILL HIM!
THE FIEND IS A PRISONER OF THE LAW! STAND BACK!
HIS TRIAL WAS SWIFT... HIS SENTENCE ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTFUL IN ALL FRENCH COURT HISTORY!
I SENTENCE YOU, JEAN D'ARST, TO THE GUILLOTINE... NOT ONCE... BUT TWICE!
TWICE?
...TWICE?
TWICE...ONCE AGAINST THOSE STRANGLING HANDS-- A SECOND CARESS AGAINST YOUR THROAT!
I'LL KILL YOU! ...I'LL KILL EVERYBODY WITH MY POWERFUL HANDS!
CAME THE DAY...
MURDERER!
MAD BEAST!
YOU SCUM OF PEASANTS! YOU WOULDN'T SCREAM WITH MY STRONG HANDS AT YOUR THROAT!

I CURSE YOU--- CURSE YOU ALL! MY CURSE WILL LIVE ON IN MY HANDS! I'LL DIE, BUT MY HANDS WILL LIVE AND GO ON STRANGLING FOREVER!
HE'S MAD!
THE FIRST CHOP BROUGHT A WILD ANIMAL SHRIEK! THE SECOND BROUGHT THE SILENCE OF DEATH!
T-THEY C-CUT OFF HIS HANDS! IT'S HORRIBLE!
IT'S NO MORE THAN THE BEAST DESERVED!
CHOP!
AND WHAT IS YOUR HONOR'S WISH CONCERNING THE HANDS?
BURN THEM...THEN SCATTER THE ASHES TO THE WINDS!
WHO KNOWS HOW DIFFERENT OUR STORY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IF ONE MAN HAD NOT LUSTED FOR A MACABRE MEMENTO!
WHO'D KNOW THE DIFFERENCE? BURN ONLY THE BASKET AND I'LL GIVE YOU 1,000 FRANCS FOR THE HANDS!
AS YOU SAY, MONSIEUR... WHO'D KNOW? THE HANDS ARE YOURS!
MONSIEUR BIDEAU HAD AN ELABORATE CHEST MADE TO HOLD THE HANDS, AND USED THEM TO TORMENT THE WIFE HE HATED!
COME! ADMIRE MY LOVELY RELICS!
YOU BEAST! I HOPE THEY CHOKE YOU!
CHOKE ME? HO-HO-HO! THAT'S RICH! HA! HA!
SLAM
WHA-- HELP!


WHEN THE GENDARMES ARRIVED, THE CHEST HAD VANISHED!
BUT, I TELL YOU, THE HANDS DID IT-- THE STRANGLER'S HANDS!
OR THE HANDS OF A JEALOUS WIFE, MADAME? BUT NO DOUBT! THE COURT WILL BE JUST!

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE HANDS APPEARED AND VANISHED, AND ALL TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF BRUTAL STRANGULATION!

DEATH WAS ALWAYS BY STRANGULATION THOUGH NOT ALWAYS! FIVE OWNERS OF THE CHEST HANGED THEMSELVES!

THE HANDS WERE IN NEW YORK IN 1972! A CURIO DEALER TOOK THEM TO RALPH MORAN, A COLLECTOR...
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, MR. MORAN! I KNEW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN THIS KIND OF STUFF!
I AM, SAM! IF THEY'RE GENUINE, I'LL BUY THEM!

SEE! THEY'RE STILL CURVED TO FIT A THROAT! AREN'T THEY BEAUTIES, JANE?
PLEASE, UNCLE RALPH! THEY'RE FRIGHTFUL!
DISGUSTING!

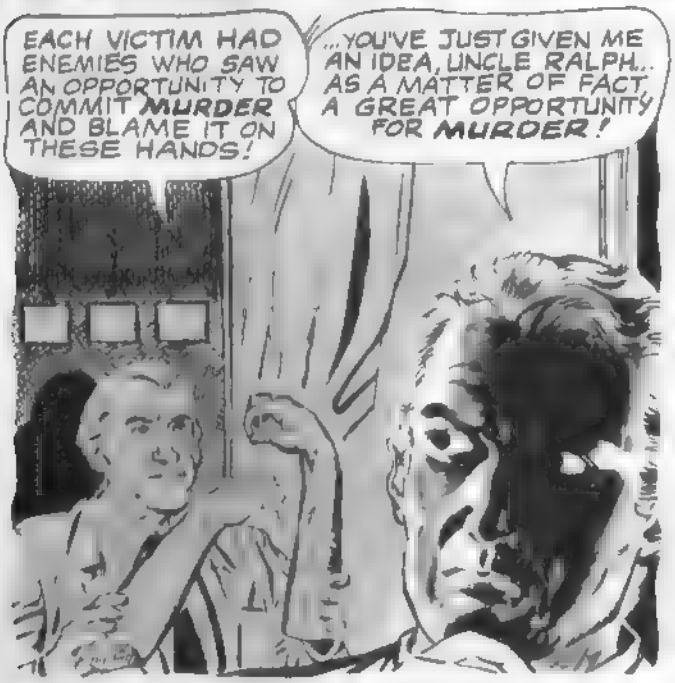
MY NEPHEW RESENTS MY SPENDING MONEY FOR MY OWN AMUSEMENT, SAM!
ER, YEAH, MR. MORAN! THANKS! I'LL GO NOW!

PERSONALLY, I WOULDN'T SLEEP IN THE SAME HOUSE WITH THOSE PAWS!
PLEASE, DON! DON'T START ANOTHER FIGHT WITH UNCLE RALPH TONIGHT!

AFTER ALL UNCLE RALPH TOOK US INTO HIS HOME AND TREATS US LIKE HIS OWN CHILDREN, DON!
I HOPE THOSE HANDS DO CHOKE HIM!

UNCLE RALPH, I'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME MONEY! I NEED IT BADLY!
MORE GAMBLING DEBTS, DON? NO... NO MORE MONEY!

YOU... YOU TIGHTWAD! I HOPE THESE HIDEOUS CLAWS STRANGLE YOU LIKE THE OTHERS!
HA! I DON'T BELIEVE THAT VERY SILLY SUPERSTITION! THE TRUTH IS FAR SIMPLER... MORE EXCITING!


EACH VICTIM HAD ENEMIES WHO SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMIT MURDER AND BLAME IT ON THESE HANDS!
...YOU'VE JUST GIVEN ME AN IDEA, UNCLE RALPH... AS A MATTER OF FACT, A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MURDER!

WITH YOUR FRIEND SAM AND MY SISTER JANE TO VERIFY THE SUPERSTITION... IT'S A NATURAL!
DON... DON'T BE RASH! YOU... YOU KNOW MY WILL NAMES YOU AND JANE AS FULL BENEFICIARIES! DON!

I KNOW THAT! SO WHAT DO I HAVE TO LOSE?
N-NO!
AAA
HHG!

SAM WILL TESTIFY THAT EVERY OWNER OF THE HANDS HAS ENDED UP IN STRANGULATION! AND JANE WILL VERIFY THE SUPERSTITION!

POLICE? COME QUICKLY! THERE'S BEEN A MURDER!

LATER.
... AND WE ALL WARNED HIM ABOUT THOSE AWFUL CURSED HANDS! JANE WAS TERRIFIED!
I HATED THE AWFUL THINGS!
INTERESTING!

IT WOULD BE CONVINCING IF I COULD FIND THOSE DEAD HANDS! WHERE ARE THEY?
TH-THEY'RE GONE! JUST LIKE SAM SAID! THEY'VE VANISHED!

BUT YOU WON'T VANISH, BUD! WE'RE CHARGING YOU WITH THE MURDER OF YOUR UNCLE!
NO! NO! YOU MUST FIND THE HANDS! THEY'RE HERE SOMEWHERE!

YOU WON'T PIN IT ON ME! IT'S A TRICK! THE HANDS DID IT, I TELL YOU!
HOLD IT, MAC! HE WON'T GET AWAY!

THEY WON'T SEND ME TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! THOSE HANDS WERE THERE! I SAW THEM!

THOSE HANDS WERE THERE! THE BOX... EEEAAH!

NO! NO! THE HANDS! THEY'RE MOVING!

NO! DON'T! AGGH-UG!
HIT IT AGAIN, MAC! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS DEAD-HAND MALARKY!

DON! HE'S DEAD!
...I SEE IT... BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
CRASH!

...LATER!
COME ON UPSTAIRS, DOC, AND DON'T GIVE ME ANY ARGUMENTS! I SAY A GUY JUST STRANGLED HIMSELF. AND YOU SAY THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
OF COURSE IT'S IMPOSS-BLE! NOBODY CAN STRANGLE HIMSELF BY HIS OWN HANDS, INSPECTOR!

BUT T-THERE WERE TWO AWFUL HANDS, INSPECTOR! THEY WERE IN A CHEST... ALL DRIED UP... H-HORRIBLE!
YEAH? WELL THERE AREN'T ANY HANDS HERE NOW, LADY... IN A CHEST OR OTHERWISE!
...NO ONE HAS REPORTED A BOX WITH WITHERED ARMS TO THIS DATE... YET NOT TOO LONG AGO IN NEW ENGLAND THERE ARE STILL MANY STRANGULATIONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SOLVED! IS IT POSSIBLE THE VICTIMS ENCOUNTERED THE HANDS OF JEAN D'ARST?

The End

A THING OF HORROR

HE! HE! HE! DIE! DIE!

AIEEEE! H-HELP!

FOLLOWING AN ALMOST FATAL CAR ACCIDENT, LOU BKINKMAN LAY IN A HOSPITAL WONDERING HOW BAD HE HAD BEEN SCARRED... IT WAS A SOUL JARRING SHOCK WHEN THE BANDAGES WERE FINALLY REMOVED AND HE FOUND HIS FACE A MASK OF HORROR!

OH... HE'S UGLY!

THE DOC SAYS IT'LL BE WEEKS BEFORE MY FACE HEALS!... I'LL GO MAD FROM PEOPLE STARING AT ME!

HEY, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT FACE?

WHEN HE WAS ALONE ON THE STREET, HE SQUIRMED AN CRAWLED INSIDE OF HIMSELF IN AN AGONY OF SELF-CONSCIOUS TORTURE!
AND IT'S ALL VICTOR'S FAULT! I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR IT! I'LL AVENGE MYSELF UPON HIM IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
YES, SIR! WHAT CAN I DO FOR-- GOOD GRIEF! LON! THAT CAN'T BE YOU!
...OF COURSE, IT'S ME, YOU DRUNKEN FOOL... FEAST YOUR EYES ON WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME!
HAVE YOU GONE MAD, YOU'RE CHOKING ME!
MAD? HOW CAN I BE MAD WHEN YOU WRECKED MY CAR BECAUSE I STOLE YOUR GIRL!
A MOMENT LATER, LON'S BLACK RAGE TEMPORARILY SUBSIDED...
I-I GUESS I LOST MY HEAD FOR A MOMENT, VIC! FORGET IT, WILL YOU? HOW'S THE MONTMORENCY JOB COMING?
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME! I'M YOUR BOSS, AND RICH, WHILE YOU'RE A DRUNKEN FAILURE-- THAT'S WHY YOU TRIED TO KILL ME... ISN'T IT?... YOU HATE ME VICTOR!
WE CAN DELIVER IT THIS AFTERNOON!
WHAT A HIDEOUS-LOOKING MONSTER! HOPE MONTMORENCY WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT!
I WONDER WHY HE WANTS A WEATHER VANE LIKE THAT?
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!

MONTMORENCY IS A RETIRED HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER WHO MADE A FORTUNE OUT OF MONSTER MOVIES... IT'S A SORT OF TRADE MARK FOR HIM!
MOUNTING THIS ON TOP OF HIS MANSION IS GOING TO BE A HARD JOB!
LATER..
..THAT DOES IT, LON, IT'S IN POSITION!
MAKE SURE IT'S MOUNTED STRAIGHT, VIC! THEY'RE PAYING PLENTY AND WANT IT DONE RIGHT!
LON, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL!
MARLENE AND I ARE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN! SHE REALLY LOVES ME... AND WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
WHAT?!
...YOU MAKE A HORROR-OBJECT OUT OF ME, THEN YOU STEAL THE WOMAN I LOVE! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!
BUT YOU STOLE HER FROM ME! STOP!
HE LANDED RIGHT ON THE TOP OF THE SPIKED WEATHER-VANE... WHAT HAVE I DONE!
AEEE EEEEEEEEE

SECONDS LATER...
VIC'S BLOOD SOAKED THE VANE! THE THING IS MOVING!... IT'S ALIVE!! EEEYAHH!
THE WOODEN MONSTROSITY PICKED UP VIC'S BODY FROM THE POINT AND FLUNG IT AWAY LIKE A RAG DOLL!
ABRUPTLY THE THING MOVED TOWARD LON...
LEAVE ME ALONE! GET AWAY FROM ME... YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, TOO!
NO! I WON'T HARM YOU!
YOU ARE MY FRIEND! YOU CREATED ME, YOU GAVE ME LIFE! WE ARE BOTH MONSTROSITIES! WE NEED EACH OTHER! WE'LL WORK TOGETHER!
THE WOODEN HORROR CONVINCED LON, HE MEANT NO HARM, TOOK HIM TO THE ENTRANCE OF MONTMORENCY MANSION...
THERE HE IS! MONTMORENCY THE MAN WHO MADE HORROR A SYMBOL OF EVIL...THIS EVIL BEING MUST BE DESTROYED!
SECONDS LATER A MONSTROUS WOODEN FIST CRASHED DOWN ON THE AWE-STRUCK MOVIE PRODUCER!
...HE'S DELIVERED HIM!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM THIS WOODEN HORROR!
SUDDENLY...
LATER AT MARLENE'S HOUSE LON TELLS OF THE FEARFUL EVENTS AT THE PRODUCERS ESTATE, BUT DID NOT MENTION VIC'S MURDER!
I TELL YOU, IT'S TRUE, THERE IS SUCH A CREATURE!
POOR LON, THE SHOCK OF HIS ACCIDENT MUST HAVE UNHINGED HIS MIND!
SEE! THERE IT IS! MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE!
GOOD LORD... IT'S TRUE!
BECAUSE OF HER, LON, YOU KILLED VIC... YOU'VE COMMITTED A CRIME BECAUSE OF HER! NOW, SHE MUST DIE!
N-NO! NO!
SHE MUST DIE! DIE! DIE!
WHAT?! LON KILLED VIC?
MARLENE! GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IS THIS?
HELP ME, FATHER!
STOP! YOU MUST NOT KILL HER!

1
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! SHOOT! OR HE'LL KILL YOUR DAUGHTER!
2
...BULLETS CAN'T HARM ME BUT THEY COULD KILL YOU! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NO! PUT ME DOWN!
3
LATER, IN A NEARBY PARK!
LISTEN, POLICE WILL BE LOOKING FOR US! WE CAN'T AVOID THEM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! ...HIDE BETWEEN THOSE ROCKS UNTIL DARK! THEN I'LL RETURN AND WE'LL BOTH LEAVE TOWN!
YES! YOU'RE MY FRIEND! I'LL DO IT!
4
FROM THAT MOMENT, LON COVERED A 1000 MILES IN AN EFFORT TO ESCAPE THE WOODEN HORROR!
I'M SAFE NOW... I CAN STOP RUNNING! ...HUH? WHAT IN-- ...IT'S HIM!
LON, WHY DID YOU TRY TO ESCAPE FROM ME? WE'RE BOTH MONSTERS! WE NEED EACH OTHER!
5
...WITHOUT THINKING, LON LEAPED OUT OF A TINY WINDOW AND ESCAPED...
...I CAN'T GET THROUGH THIS WINDOW... BUT WHEREVER YOU GO, I'LL FIND YOU!
6
...CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE! I'M GOING INSANE... GOT TO GET RID OF THAT THING... NO PEACE... I MUST RETURN TO MY WORKSHOP!
THE MONSTER WAS RIGHT! IN THE ENSUING MONTHS LON MOVED CONSTANTLY AND JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT HE FINALLY LOST HIS NEMESIS, THE GROTESQUE CARVED MONSTER WOULD LOOM UP OUT OF NOWHERE! FINALLY, LON CRACKED!

LON RETURNED TO HIS WORKSHOP...
...KNEW YOU WOULD COME BACK HERE LON, SO I WAITED!
...WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS...TO PROVE IT, I'LL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU!
...YOU ARE INDEED A FRIEND!
WITH MY WOODCRAFT SKILL I SHALL CARVE A MATE FOR YOU! BUT, WHILE I WORK, YOU MUST REST...GO TO SLEEP OR SOMETHING!
LATER...
...AT LAST, HE'S ASLEEP! FIRST I MUST SECURE HIM WITH SPIKES, THEN POUR KEROSENE OVER HIM AND--
LIGHT A MATCH AND-- WOW! LOOK AT HIM BURN! SOON HE'LL BE ASHES AND I'LL BE FREE!
...GLOATING... LON WATCHED THE FIRE GLOW THEN HE RACED TO THE RAILROAD STATION, BUT...
BETRAYER! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME-- EVER!
...IT'S HIM! LIKE A BURNING BANSHEE! H-HELP!
YE-ECH! HE'S BURNT TO A CRISP!... HORRIBLE...
...AND WHATEVER CHASED HIM ALSO DIED WITH HIM!
STOP! YOU'RE BURNING ME! --I'M ON FIRE! AIEEE!
AIEE

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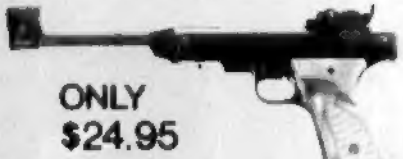

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